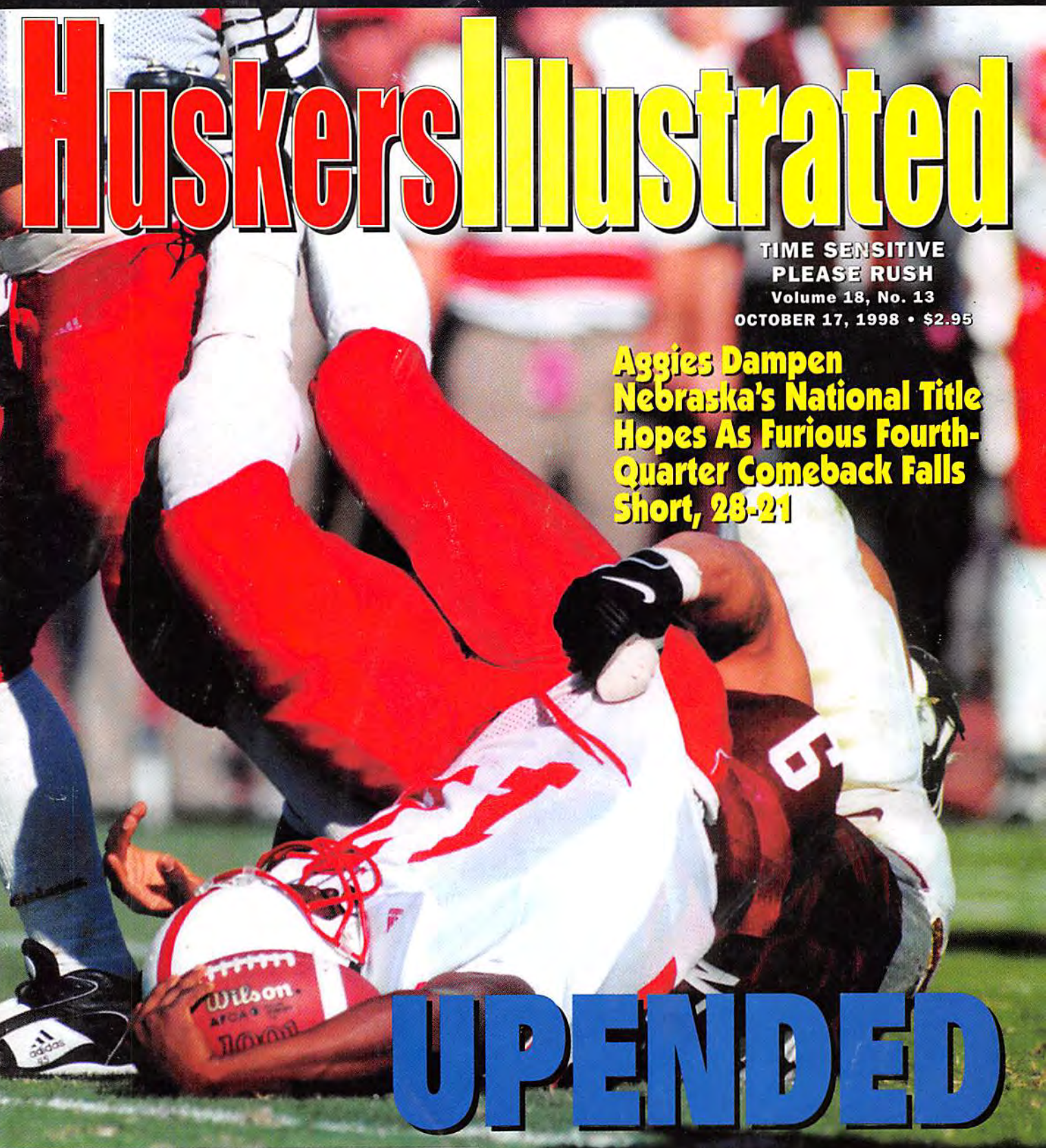
KANSAS PREVIEW

Huskers Illustrated

TIME SENSITIVE
PLEASE RUSH
Volume 18, No. 13
OCTOBER 17, 1998 • $2.95

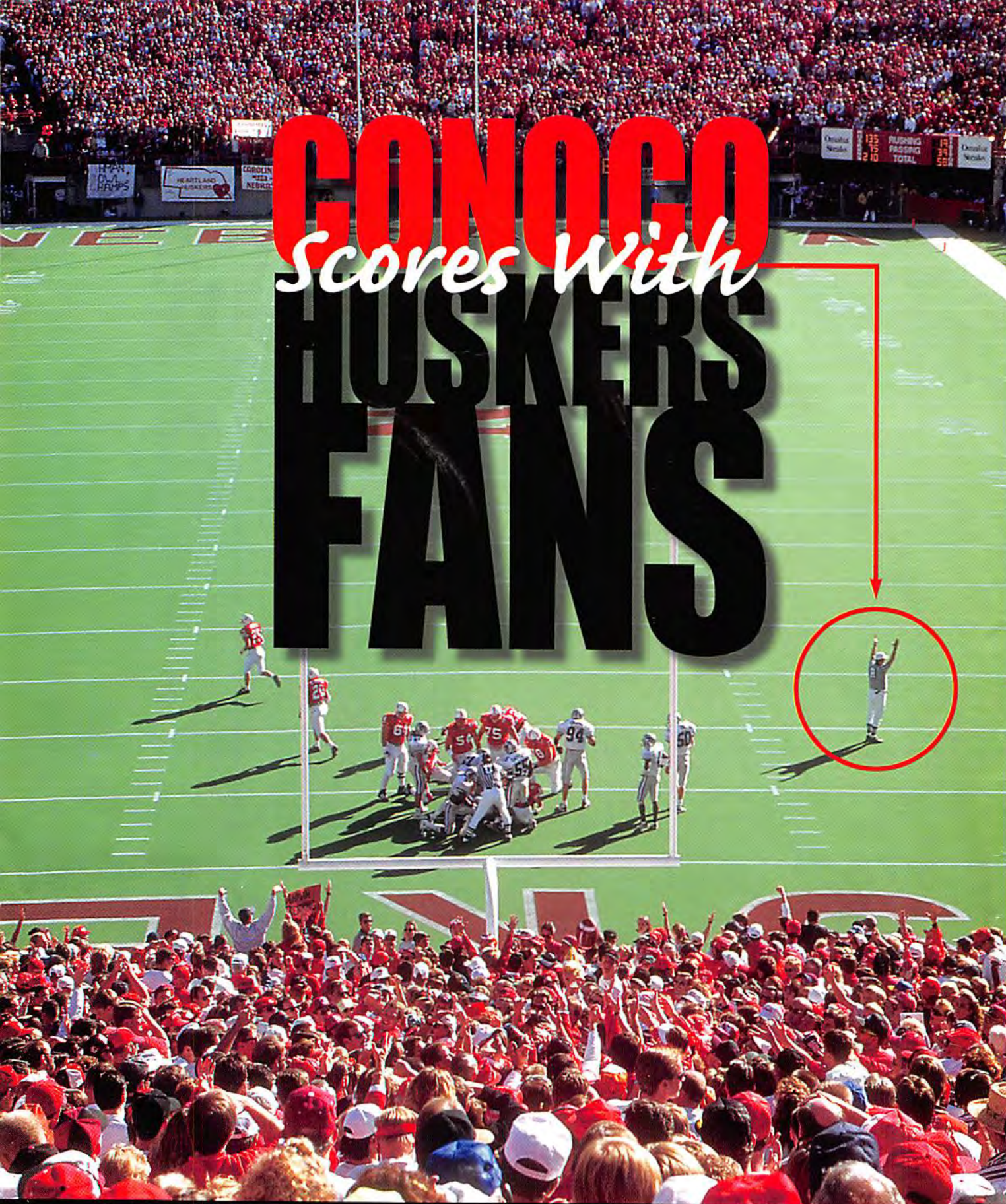
Aggies Dampen Nebraska's National Title Hopes As Furious Fourth-Quarter Comeback Falls Short, 28-21



UPENDED

657

13
0 74470 66155 9



Supporting the Nebraska Huskers.

conoco

WINNING STYLES!

JUST FOR HIM... JUST FOR HER... JUST FOR FANS!

Just For Fans carries the largest assortment of Husker products.
Call for our **FREE** 36 page full-color catalog featuring apparel, home and office products, auto and golf accessories, glassware, party supplies and collectibles.

Receive a free gift with every order!

$59.95*
Item #65-01
Deluxe Duffel Bag
10" x 19" x 10"
Lifetime Warranty





$54.95*
Item #61-83
Tan Logo Carpet
30" x 54"



Back View

$49.95*
Item #805-20
Men's Quality Denim Shirt
M, L, XL
(XXL, Item #805-25, add $3.00)

$49.95*
Item #800-10
Women's Quality Denim Shirt
S, M, L, XL

$17.95*
Item #19-51
Wool Nebraska Hat
with 3D embroidery



$9.95*
Item #14-11
Boy Fan Bear
11" Tall



$9.95*
Item #14-12
Girl Fan Bear
11" Tall





1995

1996
Item #96-01

1997
Item #97-01

$99.95*
Item #95-03
Collector's Set of Senior Trading Cards
Set includes: 3 years, 1995, 1996, 1997
1996 & 1997 sets sold separately for $29.95 each
(1995 set sold in Collector's Set only)



$54.95*
Item #810-20
V-Neck Sweater
Natural Color
S, M, L, XL
(XXL, Item #810-25, add $3.00)

**Plus Shipping and Handling*

Call today to receive your **FREE** catalog or to place an order:

1-800-934-FANS

24 Hours a Day • 7 Days a Week (3267)

JUST FOR FANS

Owned by HUSKER Fans, Just For HUSKER Fans

Huskers Illustrated

CONTENTS

OCTOBER 17, 1998 • Volume 18, No. 13



24 Coming To Pass

While the Cornhuskers have enjoyed some success through the air this season, Frank Solich doesn't plan on abandoning Nebraska's run-first philosophy any time soon.
By Mike Babcock

28 Mellow Not Yellow

McBride's preseason tongue-lashing proved to be just the kick in the backside that an uninspired Blackshirt squad needed.
By Mike Babcock

NEXTISSUE

Look for the review of Kansas and preview of Missouri that will mail on Oct. 19.

DEPARTMENTS

Letters 5
NU Notebook 6
Staying on the green • All's well that ends well • Tough transition • Quick Hits • Random Quotes
Big 12 News 8
Welcome to the real world • The dreaded Big "C" • Short Shots
State Of The Huskers 10
None of Nebraska's conference opponents has endured more frustration than Kansas over the past quarter century.
Off The Set 12
Enough already. Let the national championship be decided on the field and not through the scribblings of half-awake pollsters.
From The Beat 13
Outside of Newcombe, Jones and Bishop, the rest of the Big 12 quarterbacks make a passing grade or lower.
Scouting Kansas 14
An in-depth look at the Kansas Jayhawks
Texas A&M Game Recap 16
4th And Inches 19
Texas A&M Stats/1998 Stats 20
Where Are They Now? 22
Believe it or not, Nebraska led the Big Eight Conference in passing in 1976 behind the last quarterback recruited by Tom Osborne before the Huskers switched to option football.
10 Questions 23
With Khari Reynolds
Player Profile 31
Chad Kelsay
All Sports 32
The soccer squad's leading scorer, forward Kim Engesser, has rarely met a kick or challenge she didn't like.
Grid Recruiting 34
Nebraska's success in recruiting defensive linemen has been unmatched in recent years.
Prep Report 35
The recruiting wars as seen through the eyes of Brownwood quarterback Colby Freeman.
Campus Life 37
A look inside the day-to-day lifestyles of student athletes. This week's subject: Tracey Wistrom
Last Word 38





Letters to the Editor

Lose The Prep Report

It is time to put an end to the Prep Report written by Colby Freeman. It is a downright embarrassment to the University of Nebraska to see *Huskers Illustrated* blatantly "recruiting" Mr. Freeman by allowing him to write a weekly article. Do you honestly think your readers put much stock in this kid's promise that Nebraska "is near the top of his list?" For goodness sake, every recruit makes the same promise. If Mr. Freeman had already committed to Nebraska, then I might be interested in reading one article on his perspective. However, it is a waste of valuable magazine space to read about some kid who will probably end up at Texas A&M. Get with it. Dump the article and use the additional space to tell us about players who have already committed to the Huskers.



Craig P. Fagan
San Diego, Calif.

Displaced Fan in Pa.

I live in Pennsylvania and have been following Nebraska football since 1970-71. I ordered *Huskers Illustrated* in March of this year and my only complaint is that I get it too late. Why can't this be sent out sooner? And I know I'm not a native of Nebrraska, but how would a person like myself ever get a ticket to a home game? I get a lot of harrassment from the Penn St. fans I work with. They say Nebraska plays patsies and can't win the big games. The last couple of years shut a lot of them up.

Jenny A. Zinn
New Oxford, Pa.

Response To TVV

I think our Huskers and Coach Solich are calling the plays to 100 percent perfection, maybe even better than Hall-of-Famer Coach Osborne. The offense has to be balanced against great defensive opponents like Kansas St. and Texas A&M.

I'm sure you remember the Arizona St. 19-0 game. They put eight men on the line of scrimmage and stopped the run. If we play-action pass 10-15 times a game, they have to respect that and can't put everybody on the line. If we complete 78 percent of our passes, as Bobby Newcombe is doing right now, we will be the most balanced Huskers team of all time.

Pick your poison, man. We have Evans, Buckhalter and Alexander at I-back, Makovicka and Miller at fullback, Newcombe and Crouch at quarterback, Jackson and DeBates at tight end and Cheatham, Davison, Wiggins and Brown at receiver. That's awesome, baby. Can you say three-time national champions, fellow Husker fans? Go Big Red.

Mark D. Lockwood
Sioux City, Iowa

Offense, Please

What happened in Kansas City? 73 yards rushing against anybody is absolutely absurd. How can one team rack up 500 yards against the ninth-ranked team in the country one week and follow it up with a pathetic performance the next? This team has been very inconsistent all season. Their performance against Oklahoma State will almost certainly drop them in the polls and nearly cost them a third national championship. The Cowboys are definitely not the best team the Huskers will see this season. They need to get things straightened out quickly because a lot of people have non-refundable plane tickets to Arizona in early January.

Alan Simpson
Lincoln, Neb.

Mark Of A Champion

Obviously, the Huskers didn't have their best game Saturday against the Oklahoma State Cowboys. Before people start calling for Coach Solich's head, think for a minute. It would be nice to get 500 yards every week, but it is unreasonable to expect it. The Huskers, like every team, will have bad games. Fortunately, they made the plays they when needed them. They had a late punt return for a touchdown and a goal-line stand to save the win. That is why they are champions.

Jack Milburn
Omaha, Neb.

Got Something To Say?

Please send your comments and questions to: Letters, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. Or fax them to us at (972) 851-1720. We reserve the right to edit the letters for clarity, content and length. For those with electronic mail abilities, **huskersedit@sportscom.com.**

VOLUME 18, NUMBER 13

Huskers Illustrated

PUBLISHER
Robert Bennett

EDITOR
Chris Greer

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Mike Babcock

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Jeff Cannon

EDITORIAL COORDINATOR
Shawn Heilbron

PRODUCTION
Mario Talkington, Steve Roe

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Mark Derowtisch, James Hale, Steve Sipple, Curt McKeever, Bill Doleman, Todd Henrichs, Nebraska Sports Information Office

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Scott Bruhn, Doug DeVoe, Jon Waller, Ryan Soderlin, Lisa Hall, Joel Capra

SPORTS MARKETING & ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Jeff Tuder
For Advertising Information Call: (402) 423-3405

INTERNET MANAGER
Jason Horne

ADVERTISING COORDINATOR
Danni Usrey

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
JoAnn Hinson Leath

CIRCULATION
Ann Johnston

ACCOUNTING
Carolyn Rhodes

Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published monthly January through May and December, bi-monthly Jun/Jul.; weekly September through November except open dates. Single issue cost $2.95; subscription rate for one year (17 issues) is $49.90. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of $16.00 per year. Foreign postage $34.00.

Huskers Illustrated is published by College Sports Communications, Inc., 13645 Beta Road, Dallas, Texas 75244-5039, (972) 851-1700 or (800) 397-3715. Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, Texas.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Huskers Illustrated, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501.

Address all editorial related correspondence to ***Huskers Illustrated***, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Reproduction or use of editorial or graphics content in any manner without permission is prohibited. Photographs and manuscripts for publications are welcome, but will not be acknowledged or returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. The publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material.

For Subscription Inquiries call 1-800-397-3715 or mail to P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-3222. Allow six to eight weeks for response. Give old and new addresses and enclose latest mailing address label when writing about your subscription.

CSC

©1998 College Sports Communications. All Rights Reserved.

HI ONLINE
(www.sportscom.com/huskers)

Customer Service
1-800-397-3715
Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Central Time)

E-Mail Addresses
Publisher: huskerspub@sportscom.com
Editor: huskersedit@sportscom.com
Circulation: huskerscirc@sportscom.com

Random QUOTES

"It may be in danger if the NCAA goes to the cost-cutting measures that limit a team to 105 or so. That's why I encouraged the women's rifle team to get 300 or 400 members."
*— Defensive coordinator **Charlie McBride**, when asked about NU's walk-on program.*

"I'm hoping the next time I get one I'll score."
*— Defensive tackle **Jason Wiltz** after intercepting a pass for the second time this season against Washington*

"It's probably pretty scary, going down through the interception stats. You see a guy 6-foot-1, 185, (then) 6-foot-4, 310 . . . that doesn't go together real well. I'd have to say there's a few others who can move a little bit better than him once they (intercept) the ball.
"But we'll keep taking them if he keeps getting them."
*— Rush end **Chad Kelsay** on Wiltz's interceptions, which broke the Cornhusker single-season record for a defensive lineman*

"It makes you feel good. But I'm not in that category. He won the Heisman Trophy and is setting NFL records.
"I'm a podunk sophomore at the University of Nebraska, and I've got a lot to do."
*— I-back **DeAngelo Evans** on being compared to **Barry Sanders***

"A good running back can make the offensive line look good, and a good line can make a back look good."
*— Center **Josh Heskew** on the value of a player such as Evans in the lineup*

"I didn't realize how tough he was."
*— **Evans** on the return of quarterback **Bobby Newcombe***



Staying On The Green

Longtime defensive specialist Charlie McBride has seen plenty of his players move onto the professional ranks, but not all of them make their living on the gridiron

Keep your left elbow straight, and . . .

OK. So Nebraska's veteran defensive coordinator **Charlie McBride**, isn't likely to become a teaching pro at a golf course when he finally decides to retire.

But he could include **Hale Irwin**'s name on his resume, sort of.

"What's really bad is the guy who you coached in high school is on the Senior PGA Tour," McBride told the audience at a recent Extra Point Club luncheon.

Actually, McBride was more involved in coaching Irwin at Colorado. He was a graduate assistant for the Buffaloes football team at the time Irwin was an All-Big Eight safety.

But he also helped coach Irwin at Boulder, Colo., High School.

"I was a student teacher there, and I kind of got thrown into the mix with the (football) coaches," said McBride. "I got involved (with the team), probably, because I knew a lot of those guys."

McBride returned to Colorado, where he was a football letterman from 1959 to 1961, and served as a graduate assistant in 1965 and 1966, after coaching for two years at Chicago's Fenger High.

He worked with Buffaloes assistant **Bill Mondt**, who handled the secondary.

Irwin, who went on to a successful career on the PGA Tour, was a three-year letterman and two-time first-team all-conference selection, completing his eli-

All's Well That Ends Well

Larry Jacobson, Nebraska's first Outland Trophy winner in 1971, was without his 1971 national championship ring from mid-July until late September.

The ring, a Rolex watch and about $200 were stolen from a locker at Lincoln's Cottonwood Club while Jacobson was played racquetball. Nearly two months passed and Jacobson finally decided to place an order for a replacement ring. Soon after, it was located in a pawn shop in Columbia, Mo.

Two years ago, a fire at Jacobson's home in South Bend destroyed his Outland Trophy and his jersey, which was retired by NU. His 1970 and 1971 national championship rings were saved. ■



Larry Jacobson had his jersey retired along with Will Shields and Trev Alberts

gibility in 1966.

Dick Anderson, who was a year behind Irwin, also played in the Colorado secondary during that time. Both Anderson and Irwin were selected to the Buffaloes' All-Century team in 1989.

Both were good golfers, according to McBride.

"When they were in college, they were competing against each other in golf as much as in football," McBride recalled. "Dick plays a lot still in the NFL tournaments and all that stuff."

Anderson, an All-American in 1967, played 10 seasons with the NFL's Miami Dolphins. He was a three-time All Pro and won the NFL defensive most valuable player award in 1973.

"But probably if he worked at it, he was good enough to be a pro golfer, too," said McBride.

That Irwin had the temperament to be a professional golfer was apparent in high school, according to McBride. "Hale was always on the real composed side. He didn't seem to get rattled. His nature, I think, was . . . you know, you could see it when he was younger. He never got real excited.

"Inwardly, both of them were unbelievable competitors."

McBride was a pretty fair competitor, too, as an end and punter. He still ranks 21st among Colorado punters all-time, averaging 36.20 yards per punt on 145 punts.

His senior season under coach **Sonny Grandelius**, the Buffaloes won the Big Seven championship and played Louisiana State in the Orange Bowl game, losing 25-7 to finish 9-2.

Colorado defeated Nebraska 7-0 in Lincoln that season. Even though the Cornhuskers managed only 31 total yards and didn't pick up a first down, "the players they had, wow!" McBride said.

"They just needed something new, and **Bob** (**Devaney**) brought it out."

Devaney arrived the next season from Wyoming, and Nebraska hasn't had a losing season since. ■

Tough Transition

Former Cornhusker **Chris Dishman** is starting at offensive guard in his second season with the NFL's Arizona Cardinals and he is gaining a greater appreciation for the success he enjoyed at Nebraska.

"Last year it was real tough on me," he told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "I lost more games last year than I did my whole life, from seventh grade through college."

The Cardinals were 4-12 last season. Nebraska was 47-3 during Dishman's four seasons.

Dishman was sidelined half of his rookie season with a dislocated right elbow.

Aaron Graham, who played center in the same lines with Dishman during the Cornhuskers' national championship seasons in 1994 and 1995, is also an Arizona starter.

Dishman and Graham were among 31 former Cornhuskers on opening-day NFL rosters, the second-most among Big 12 programs. Colorado had 35 former players.

Jason Peter, the Carolina Panthers' first-round pick and the 14th pick overall, was not included on the opening-day roster, but signed soon after. ■



Chris DISHMAN

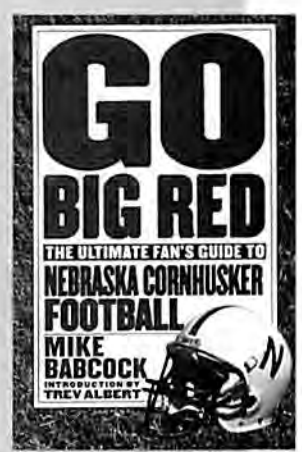
QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

DID YOU KNOW?

Who were Nebraska's starters for **Bob Devaney**'s first game as coach in 1962? Who was the Oklahoma starter from Nebraska in the 1971 "Game of the Century"? What are the most common last names of Cornhusker football lettermen all-time? What special teams player was nicknamed "Bullethead"?

If you're a regular reader of ***Huskers Illustrated***, you probably can answer some of those questions. But if you've forgotten or never knew, you can find them in *Go Big Red: The Ultimate Fan's Guide To Nebraska Cornhusker Football*, written by ***HI***'s contributing editor **Mike Babcock**.



The 274-page, softcover book, published by St. Martin's Griffin Press, is now available.

The book includes trivia questions, as well as anecdotes, profiles of such Cornhusker greats as **Bobby Reynolds**, **Mike Rozier** and **Johnny Rodgers**, and facts, both significant and not.

It also includes an introduction written by former Nebraska Butkus Award winner **Trev Alberts** (from whose name the "s" was inadvertently omitted in the first press run).

In case you're wondering, the Sooner starter from Nebraska in the 1971 "Game of the Century" was **Ken Jones**, an offensive guard and graduate of Burke High School in Omaha.

You'll have to rely on your memory or check out the book for the other answers.

HUSKER HOOPS

The Nebraska men's basketball team has gotten its first oral commitment for 1999 from **Brian Conklin**, a 6-foot-10, 205-pound high school forward from Hubbard, Ohio.

Letters-of-intent can be signed from Nov. 11-18.

Conklin averaged 19 points and 13 rebounds last season for a Hubbard High team that finished 16-4 in Division II. Conklin's high school coach told the *Omaha World-Herald* that he has shot 39 percent from three-point range and 82 percent from the free-throw line during his career.

The Cornhuskers have at least three scholarships available for next season, in addition to the possibility that **Larry Florence** and **Troy Piatkowski** will gain an additional season of eligibility.

They would need to graduate to gain a season lost under Proposition 16.

AG ALL-AMERICANS

Senior fullback **Joel Makovicka** and junior strongside linebacker **Brian Shaw** have been named to the *Successful Farming* magazine All-America team. Makovicka is from Ulysses, Neb., and went to East Butler High School in Brainard. Shaw is from Deweese, Neb., and went to Sandy Creek High.

Makovicka also is among eight Big 12 players on the early list of candidates for the Dr Pepper Doak Walker Award, given annually to the nation's top collegiate running back. He's the only fullback among the eight, who are: **Marlon Barnes** of Colorado, **Darren Davis** of Iowa State, **Dante Hall** of Texas A&M, **Eric Hickson** of Kansas State, **De'Mond Parker** of Oklahoma, **Ricky Williams** of Texas Tech and **Ricky Williams** of Texas, last season's winner.

The Big 12 is the only conference with more than six players on the list. ■

BALLQUBE, INC.
FOOTBALL &
MINI-FOOTBALL
HOLDERS



1 HOLDER $27.95
2-3 HOLDERS $25.00 EA.
1 CASE (6 HOLDERS) $22.50 EA.

TO ORDER BY PHONE:
1-800-543-1470
8 A.M. TO 5 P.M. C.S.T.
MONDAY–FRIDAY
OR FAX ANYTIME 903-863-5571
RT 2, BOX 190
CUSHING, TX 75760

BallQube®, Inc. has been the leader in custom manufacturing holders for Sports Collectibles since 1987.
All our products are designed and manufactured in the USA
Football Holders • Helmet Holders • Mini-Helmet Holders • Basketball Holders • Cereal Box Holders • Baseball Holders • Bat Holders • Hat Holders • Softball Holders • Hockey Puck Holders • B- - - - - Baby Holders

VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE:
www.ballqube.com

1-800-543-1470

BIG 12 NEWS

Notes And Quotes From Around The League

WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD

For those Stillwater merchants and Oklahoma State fans still upset that the Cowboys moved their Nebraska game from Lewis Field to Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., we have one thing to say: Deal with it.

If we had our way, a second message would be: Get used to it.

What's the big deal? Don't two Big 12 Conference teams play every year in Dallas instead of Austin or Norman? OK, we know that no OSU Cowboy worth his spurs wants to be accused of copying anything done at Oklahoma (and vice versa). And playing a game every year at Arrowhead probably wouldn't work for various reasons. But this year's game added a new twist to the Pokes' schedule and a bowl-like atmosphere in October — not to mention some serious coin to the OSU athletic department's red-stained bank account.

When OSU hired **Terry Don Phillips** as its athletic director, Phillips was handed a daunting four-pronged assignment — wipe out the department's debt, upgrade current facilities, add new facilities and stay in compliance with Title IX by adding new sports for women. In one masterful stroke, Phillips addressed several of those issues when he agreed to move the OSU-Nebraska game to Arrowhead. Western Star Trucking, the contest's sponsor, guaranteed OSU $1.3 million to switch the site. That huge chunk of change, which wouldn't have been possible had the game remained in Stillwater, will be used to increase the football coaches' salaries, upgrade the softball field and add the sport of equestrian for women.



Legend has it that KSU's Michael Bishop threw a football 90 yards in practice. Or was that 93? Maybe 95? Surely it wasn't over a 100, was it?

THE DREADED BIG C

No team wants a quarterback controversy, but the Big C is already brewing on several Big 12 clubs.

Texas A&M coach **R.C. Slocum** yanked **Branndon Stewart** in favor of **Randy McCown**.

"I didn't want to do it," Slocum said. "You'd like to have it clear, but we haven't had that luxury."

Stewart has never lived up to Slocum's expectations since transferring to A&M after losing the quarterback job his freshman year at Tennessee to a fellow freshman named **Peyton Manning**. McCown replaced Stewart with 2:39 remaining in the first half of A&M's game with North Texas and the Aggies leading 7-3. McCown sparked an offense that got on track in the 28-9 win.

"I owe it to Randy to give him a chance to start based on what he did in that game," Slocum said. "Things seemed to pick up a little bit when he was in there.

"I'm still very appreciative of what Branndon has done, and Branndon still figures very much in our plans for this year.

Baylor coach **Dave Roberts** is faced with a similar decision. Roberts desperately wants sophomore **Odell James** to succeed. But when James wasn't effective at Colorado, **Jermaine Alfred** came off the bench to spark a touchdown drive that gave the Bears a brief fourth-quarter lead.

"Colorado has a great defensive football team, and Odell struggled some at times," Roberts said. "But he's a puppy. We told him that the quarterback is going to make some mistakes, and we'll live with it."

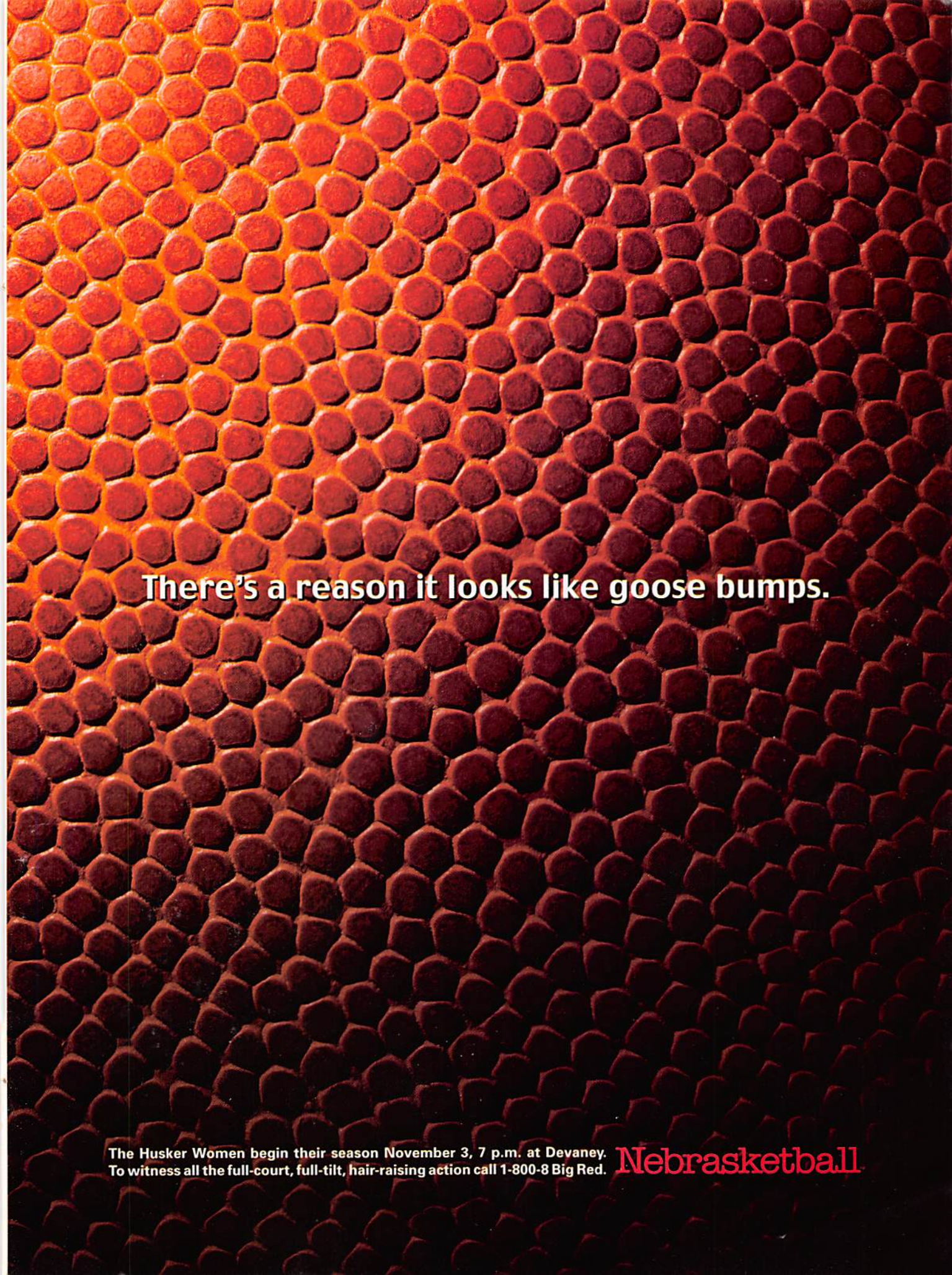
Yeah, right. Look for Roberts to live with it as long as Baylor's season doesn't die a premature death because of ineffective production out of James.

SHORT SHOTS

• K-State coach **Bill Snyder** isn't ready to confirm the arm strength of quarterback **Michael Bishop**, although legend has it that Bishop tossed a football more than 90 yards in practice last season. "There are a lot of Paul Bunyan stories about Michael," Snyder said. "The last time I heard that one, which is frequently, it was 93 yards. Now, it's up to 95. It will be over 100 by the end of the year. There are players in our program who indicate they were present when that took place. I'm not going to tell you that I doubt that he can do it. I just haven't seen it.". . .

• Big 12 football coaches are not in favor of an NCAA rule which allows scholarship athletes to hold part-time jobs. Coaches maintain that players don't have time to work during the season, and they worry about booster involvement in hiring athletes. "I think it's the absolute biggest joke I ever heard," Texas Tech coach **Spike Dykes** said of the rule. "It's the worst idea in the world. I have no idea why they (NCAA) passed it. We talk about all the things we're trying to do for these kids, then give them a stipend. If we hire three or four more people, we can control boosters, but it's going to take a whole lot more than we do have now."■ —

Dave Sittler


There's a reason it looks like goose bumps.
The Husker Women begin their season November 3, 7 p.m. at Devaney.
To witness all the full-court, full-tilt, hair-raising action call 1-800-8 Big Red.
Nebrasketball

Wanna Play Some Hoops?

None of Nebraska's conference opponents has endured more frustration than Kansas over the past quarter century



Mike BABCOCK

THE SONG WAS never a hit. Neither was the album, which occasionally can be found, quite reasonably priced, at flea markets, second-hand stores and garage sales in Nebraska.

The album, *Big Red County*, was released in 1982 as a Coca-Cola promotion. The first and last cuts on both sides of the stereo LP are "Coke Is It," instrumental and vocal versions.

The song of reference is the fourth on side two of the album: "Nebraska 67 - Kansas 1."

Obviously, the album wasn't popular in Lawrence, Kan.

The title of the song represented an exaggeration, of course, but surprisingly, not too much of one. In the 12 football games between the schools from 1971 through 1982 — all won by Nebraska — the average score was 43-5. The Cornhuskers held Kansas scoreless in seven of the games.

The Jayhawks have amassed 29 consecutive losses against Nebraska, and there's no reason to think the streak won't increase to 30 this Saturday night, even though second-year Kansas coach Terry Allen might eventually get the program turned around.

Without getting bogged down too much in the history of the series, consider:

In the last 10 games, Nebraska has won by an average score of 47-11. In the 10 games before that, the average score was 53-6. The series has become more competitive, but only slightly.

Nebraska and Kansas have played each other every season since 1906. Theirs is the longest continuous series in NCAA Division I-A and the third oldest overall at 104 games dating to 1892.

Only the Kansas-Missouri and Minnesota-Wisconsin series have gone on longer.

Nebraska leads the series 80-21-3, with only seven of the losses coming at Memorial Stadium. Kansas last won there in 1968, 23-13. That was the Jayhawks' last victory against Nebraska.

The next season, Nebraska came from behind to win, 21-17, at Lawrence and initiated a 32-game unbeaten streak that included national championships in 1970 and 1971.

Since then, Kansas has had a realistic chance of winning only twice, losing 10-9 at Lincoln in Tom Osborne's first season as head coach in 1973 and 21-20 at Lawrence in 1993. If not for a mix-up on a two-point conversion late in the game, Kansas would have upset Nebraska that afternoon.

Such failures by the Jayhawks are now taken for granted.

The combined score of their last three games against Nebraska is 139-10.

The series has become something of a curiosity, with Kansas being the foil for some of the Cornhuskers' most memorable — and unusual — offensive performances.

In 1978, sophomore Craig Johnson, a backup I-back, came off the bench to rush for 192 yards on only 10 carries and score three touchdowns in a 63-21 victory against Kansas. Nebraska gained what was then a Big Eight-record 799 total yards.



Calvin Jones tied the school record by scoring six touchdowns in 1991 against Kansas.

Johnson's 19.2 yards per carry is a Cornhusker record for a minimum 10 carries.

Mike Rozier was even more impressive against Kansas, rushing for 587 yards and seven touchdowns in three games. His senior season in 1983, he rushed for 285 yards against the Jayhawks.

That held as the school single-game record until 1991, when freshman Calvin Jones came off the bench to replace an injured Derek Brown and rush for 294 yards — against, you guessed it, Kansas.

Something of a pattern has developed in Nebraska-Kansas games. Backups such as Johnson and Jones have enjoyed big days. Clete Blakeman started at quarterback in place of an injured Steve Taylor in 1986 and 1987 and directed lopsided Cornhusker victories — the combined score was 124-2.

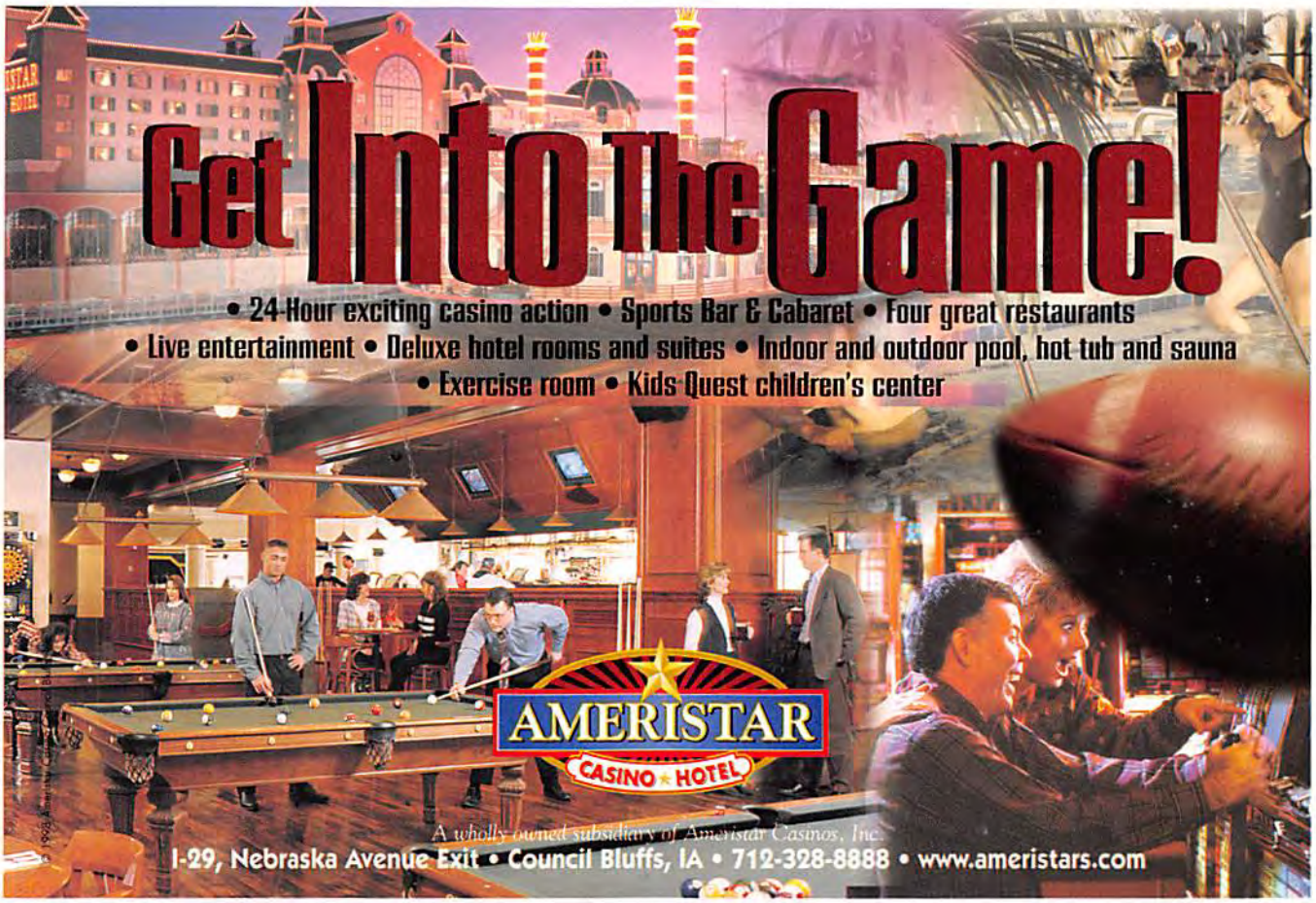
The late Brook Berringer, who had stepped in for Tommie Frazier, passed for a career-high 267 yards in a 45-17 victory against Kansas during the 1994 national championship run. Berringer's total ranks seventh all-time on Nebraska's single-game list.

Scott Frost completed 12 of 16 passes for 254 yards and three touchdowns and no interceptions in a 63-7 victory the last time Kansas came to Memorial Stadium.

Last season, some of the lights at Memorial Stadium in Lawrence failed for a short time, the kind of unusual occurrence that has become commonplace in the Nebraska-Kansas series.

You can expect more of the same when the Jayhawks play in Lincoln on Saturday. Something out of the ordinary is bound to happen. You also can expect a Nebraska victory.

And you can expect Kansas fans to retort: Wanna play basketball? ■



Misty's selects only the *top 10%* of all Prime Choice beef to serve its customers... which puts us in a class by ourselves



Misty's has been chosen by *Sterling Silver* as the only restaurant in Nebraska that maintains such high standards of beef selection. Our quality is backed with a full guarantee of satisfaction in every juicy bite.



- Ask about our gift steak boxes for the holidays or special occasions.
- 34 year tradition serving Husker fans.
- Official caterer of Huskers Illustrated, Nebraska women's volleyball and Nebraska men's basketball.
- Recognized in magazines such as Bon Appetit.

Misty's

6235 Havelock Ave.
or 56th & Hwy 2
Lincoln, NE

Try our Misty's fine seasonings in B-BQ, gourmet peppercorn, and all purpose.
Ask your local grocer or call us at 402-466-8424

The Pigskin Should Be Mightier Than The Pen

Enough already. Let the national championship be decided on the field and not through the scribblings of half-awake pollsters



Bill DOLEMAN

ON JAN. 2, 1998, Scott Frost turned in one of the greatest performances of his career. In his final collegiate game, he totaled 185 yards, scored three touchdowns and outdueled Tennessee legend Peyton Manning in the Big Red's big win over the third-ranked Volunteers in the Orange Bowl game.

Fittingly, he even scored a touchdown on his last play in a Husker uniform. Could you ask for a better storybook ending than that? Of course you could, and he did.

In the moments following the game, Frost positioned himself behind a microphone for the entire college football world to see and hear. He was impassioned, and he had a purpose.

He wanted an ending that included a national championship for himself and his teammates, for his coach, Tom Osborne, and for anyone who held Nebraska U. near and dear.

Knowing it was unlikely Nebraska would overtake Michigan in the final Associated Press poll, Frost addressed the coaches whose ballots lay before them. "Ask yourself, which team would you rather play? Nebraska or Michigan?" That was his point, among many.

That night he lobbied as hard as he played. It was as if he had played his entire career in order to earn the right to say what he wanted to say that night. He didn't have a vote, but he did have a point.



With a playoff system, players like Scott Frost, wouldn't have to campaign for votes to earn national titles.

For Husker fans, it was heartwarming. For the Wolverine faithful, it had to have been gut-wrenching to watch and listen. Let the record show that it gave me the warm fizzles.

What bothered me then and now is that the national title came down to lobbying instead of playing, opinions instead of facts. Now, this is nothing new, and the validity of the polls has been debated for decades in columns and coffee shops all over the country. What's new in 1998 is the Bowl Championship Series, which follows the Bowl Alliance, which followed the Bowl Coalition.

Gee, I can't wait to see what the 1999 model will be like.

The Bowl Championship Series of the Alliance Coalition, maybe?

Until then, we have the BCS, which is composed of four parts, consisting of strength of schedule, won-loss records, three computer rankings and, yes, the two major polls plus a partridge in a pear tree, which will peck the winner. Each component has a formula (too scientific for this column) that places a point value on the team in question, or title contender, as the case may be.

The hope and the goal are that the two best teams standing at the end of the regular season will meet in the Fiesta Bowl game to decide the coaches' national champion.

What's odd is that the AP will still poll its voters after all of the bowls are played and then will declare its own champion. Presumably, the Fiesta Bowl winner will emerge a consensus champion. The BCS should be an improvement over last year, when the national title was determined on "Judgment Day." The Huskers win and drop, while Michigan wins and takes the top spot, which then became its to lose, which it didn't.

Personally, I favor a playoff of eight teams, with the title game played the week before the Super Bowl, but I really don't have a big problem with the polls. My problem is in their administration. If I have been told once, I have been told a hundred times, the polls were created with the innocent hope that they would invoke discussion among college football fans. Mission accomplished.

But what did Ohio State do to earn the No. 1 ranking, which is now its to lose, before the 1998 season even began? Nebraska defeats No. 8 Washington by 48 points and only seven people felt moved enough to change their minds and put Nebraska on top. It will never, ever happen, but the first poll should not come out until the first of October. Do you think Michigan would still be fifth and Arizona State eighth?

So they can't wait until October. Couldn't they at least wait until Monday or Tuesday to release their weekly results? As it is, ballots must be cast in the early morning hours after Saturday's games. I'm barely done reading my Sunday morning paper when they come out, so how in the world could all 132 voters have gathered enough information and drunk enough coffee to cast a thoroughly informed ballot? Since college football remains an institution where actions don't speak louder than words, give the voters a day or two to make sense of the weekend that was. That way they can at least make their guess an educated one. ■

***Bill Doleman**'s face is familiar to Cornhusker fans. He is host for several Nebraska-related television programs including the "Husker Show" and coaches' shows for Terry Pettit, Paul Sanderford and Frank Solich.*

No Bell Curve Here

Outside of Newcombe, Jones and Bishop, the rest of the Big 12 quarterbacks make a passing grade or lower



Curt McKEEVER

AFTER JUST TWO starts, Bobby Newcombe stood as one of the best-known and most-talented quarterbacks in the Big 12 Conference.

It's the kind of attention merited to someone whose team crushes a top 10 opponent by 48 points.

The only others around the league who can claim marquee status are Kansas State's Michael Bishop and Missouri's Corby Jones — the two All-Big 12 signal-callers from 1997. But even Jones, after a tough day in Columbus, Ohio, last month, was questioning why the Tigers weren't throwing more. Not the kind of leadership you'd expect from a senior.

Iowa State's Todd Bandhauer, a talented thrower who's often overlooked because he's played for a losing program and Kansas' junior Zac Wegner, who has shown steady progress since near the end of last season, are the only others besides Newcombe, Bishop and Jones who I would consider a cut above the competition.

Here's a midseason report on how the quarterbacks have lived up to their billing:

• Bishop — The Wildcats have the nation's top-scoring offense. Without Bishop, they'd still be OK playing a schedule that consisted of Indiana State, Northern Illinois and Northeast Louisiana. But there's no way K-State would be contending for the Big 12 title, let alone a national championship without their shifty senior.

• Newcombe — He hit 10-of-11 passes in the season opener against Louisiana Tech, but turned it up a notch during the rout of Washington. In his first time in the national spotlight, Newcombe ran the option almost flawlessly, directing five touchdown drives during the first six possessions.

• Bandhauer — After his team escaped Iowa State, 31-24, Texas Tech coach Spike Jones said of Bandhauer: "I don't know that we've played anybody in a long time that impressed me more than he has. He's really a good athlete. He's in command of things."

• Jones — It would be unfair to not give Jones some slack. Remember, his father passed away before the start of the season. Missouri has relied on its option game, but when push came to shove at Ohio State, the Tigers couldn't (and didn't try to) pass. Jones will get plenty of chances down the stretch. Missouri still has games against Nebraska, Texas Tech, Colorado, Texas A&M and Kansas State.

• Wegner — If he gets hurt, Kansas is done. Wegner was No. 4 in total offense in the league after four games. He had Kansas' offense, the least productive of 112 Division I-A teams in 1997, No. 17 in scoring and No. 53 in total yardage.

• Mike Moschetti, Colorado — Recruited as a safety, Moschetti, in just two spring practices, convinced Rick Neuheisel that quarterback was the place he belonged. Moschetti led a stampede of Colorado State in the opener, but ever since, he and the Buffs' offense have been slowed by injuries. We'll hold judgment here.

• Matt Tittle, Texas Tech — He led the Red Raiders to their first 4-0 start since 1976 after starter Rob Peters went down in the opener. Tittle had the third-best pass efficiency rating among Big 12 starters, and was No. 6 in total offense. He also had some fumbling problems and had thrown five interceptions.

• Tony Lindsay, Oklahoma State — Lindsay led the Cowboys to an "upset" of No. 25 Mississippi State at home. The week before, at Tulsa, he played poorly enough that coach Bob Simmons benched him in favor of Chris Chaloupka. A dangerous runner, Lindsay needs to refine his passing skills.



Though he has less experience than the conference's best, Newcombe has already proved he belongs with the big boys.

• Randy McCown, Texas A&M — He took over for senior Branndon Stewart in a 28-9 win against North Texas. His pass efficiency rating was second in the Big 12 to Newcombe. Essentially, McCown was inserted to add some dimension to the Aggies' offense.

• Major Applewhite, Texas — He showed a lot of guts (and passing ability) in his first start at Kansas State. When you've got a guy like Ricky Williams running the ball, it's probably better to hand off and get out of the way.

• Brandon Daniels, Oklahoma — So far, Daniels has looked confused. He gave way to a walkon in the opener, and against California in the third contest, he was yanked on the final series when OU was forced to pass.

• Odell James, Baylor — Heavily recruited for his ability to run the option, James has struggled to find his groove. James, last in passing efficiency among the league's starters, was benched after his backup, Jermaine Alfred, led Baylor to its only offensive touchdown against the Buffs. ■

Curt McKeever *is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the* Lincoln Journal Star. *In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.*

Jayhawks Aren't In Kansas Anymore

Lincoln will be a difficult place for Kansas to put its road woes to rest

By Mark DEROWITSCH



Terry Allen has reason to be worried about Kansas' play away from Memorial Stadium in Lawrence.

After losing on the road to Missouri during the second week of the season, the Jayhawks had dropped seven straight away games under Allen.

Kansas finally ended its road woes with a 39-37 overtime win over Alabama-Birmingham, a relative newcomer to NCAA Division I-A football and a team Nebraska beat, 38-7. The Jayhawks aren't picky; they'll take a win anywhere, no matter who it's against.

Allen figures he has a pretty good reason why Kansas struggles so much away from home.

"I believe winning on the road deals with confidence, and we lacked a lot of confidence in ourselves a year ago," he said. "We had more confidence when we played at home. I think we're developing more confidence in ourselves."

So the Jayhawks had enough poise to beat Alabama-Birmingham on the road, but they will test their faith a little more on Saturday. That's the day Kansas travels to Lincoln, Neb., to take on Nebraska, which hasn't lost a game at home since the 1991 season.

Kickoff for the game has been moved to 6 p.m. CST so it can be televised by Fox Sports Net.

The road win wasn't a cure-all for all the Jayhawks' problems. In fact, it's far from it.

After finally getting that victory away from home, Kansas promptly returned to Lawrence and dropped a heartbreaking 24-21 decision to Texas A&M. The loss pushed the Jayhawks to 0-3 in Big 12 Conference play.

Kansas has won just two of its first six games, beating Illinois State, as well as Alabama-Birmingham. But around those two games, the Jayhawks have lost four conference games to Oklahoma State, Missouri, Texas A&M and Baylor.

Allen knows what the Jayhawks are up against in the Big 12.

"We are a more confident football team, but we still have some obstacles to overcome," Allen said.

The loss to the Aggies was a good sign of things to come, according to the Jayhawks.

Texas A&M scored with 3:24 left in the fourth quarter to take a 24-21 lead. After falling behind 17-0, Kansas rallied for three straight touchdowns before falling in the final minutes of the game.

"This shows we're getting better," Kansas defensive end Dion Johnson told the *Lawrence Journal-World*. "We're gonna knock somebody off the bracket."

Against its first three Big 12 opponents, Kansas held a lead during the

Tentative 2 Deeps

NEBRASKA OFFENSE

SE	3	Matt Davison*	6-0	180	So.
	80	Billy Haafke**	5-11	190	Sr.
LT	69	Adam Julch**	6-5	315	Jr.
	72	Ben Gessford*	6-2	290	Sr.
LG	63	James Sherman**	6-2	295	Jr.
	54	Dominic Raiola	6-2	300	Fr.
C	59	Josh Heskew***	6-3	290	Sr.
	54	Dominic Raiola	6-2	300	Fr.
RG	72	Ben Gessford*	6-2	290	Sr.
	55	Russ Hochstein*	6-3	280	So.
RT	65	Jason Schwab*	6-1	300	Jr.
	72	Ben Gessford*	6-2	290	Sr.
TE	88	Sheldon Jackson***	6-4	245	Sr.
	85	T.J. DeBates**	6-3	250	Jr.
QB	12	Bobby Newcombe*	6-0	195	So.
	7	Eric Crouch	6-0	200	Fr.
FB	45	Joel Makovicka***	5-11	240	Sr.
	15	Willie Miller*	6-0	230	So.
IB	4	DeAngelo Evans*	5-9	210	So.
	36	Correll Buckhalter*	6-0	225	So.
WB	5	Shevin Wiggins**	5-11	200	Sr.
	1	Frankie London**	6-0	180	Jr.
PK	14	Kris Brown***	5-10	205	Sr.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

LR	57	Chad Kelsay***	6-3	250	Sr.
	83	Kyle Vanden Bosch*	6-4	260	So.
NT	96	Steve Warren**	6-1	305	Jr.
	70	Jason Lohr	6-3	275	Fr.
DT	99	Jason Wiltz**	6-4	310	Sr.
-or-	91	Loran Kaiser*	6-5	280	So.
RR	84	Mike Rucker***	6-6	250	Sr.
	81	Aaron Wills	6-2	240	Jr.
SLB	37	Tony Ortiz	6-0	215	Jr.
-or-	46	Brian Shaw**	6-1	215	Jr.
MLB	44	Jay Foreman***	6-1	240	Sr.
	13	Carlos Polk*	6-3	245	So.
WLB	1	Eric Johnson**	6-1	205	Sr.
	50	Julius Jackson**	6-0	235	Jr.
LCB	16	Erwin Swiney*	6-0	185	So.
	3	Keyuo Craver	6-0	180	Fr.
FS	21	Mike Brown**	5-10	205	Jr.
	19	Clint Finley*	5-11	200	So.
ROV	25	Joe Walker*	5-10	200	So.
	29	Gregg List**	6-0	220	Jr.
RCB	22	Ralph Brown**	5-9	180	Jr.
	9	Khari Reynolds*	5-10	185	So.
P	23	Bill Lafleur***	5-11	200	Sr.

Tentative 2 Deeps

KANSAS DEFENSE

LE	41	Dion Rayford	6-3	250	Jr.
	95	Jeremy Hanak	6-6	250	Jr.
NT	59	John Williams	6-2	300	Jr.
	64	Ben Coleman	6-5	300	Fr.
RE	92	Nate Dwyer	6-3	305	Fr.
	93	Kareen Carter	6-6	270	Jr.
OLB	47	Patrick Brown	5-11	210	Sr.
	16	Tim Bowers	6-0	220	So.
OLB	11	Hanson Caston	6-2	235	Sr.
	98	Algie Atkinson	6-5	220	Fr.
ILB	54	Steve Bratten	6-1	235	Sr.
	99	Marcus Rogers	6-1	235	Fr.
ILB	45	J.J. Johnson	6-2	235	Sr.
	97	Victor Bullock	6-2	250	So.
LCB	37	Jamie Harris	5-10	185	Sr.
	7	Quincy Roe	5-9	180	Fr.
FS	18	Chad Coellner	6-0	200	Jr.
	13	Freddie Hammonds	6-1	200	Jr.
SS	27	Michael Allen	5-10	200	Sr.
	38	Greg Erb	6-0	185	So.
RCB	23	M. Abdul-Rahim	6-0	180	Jr.
	3	Jahmal Wright	5-8	180	Jr.
P	29	Matt Tyler	6-2	215	Fr.

KANSAS OFFENSE

SE	1	Harrison Hill	5-11	185	Fr.
	12	Eric Patterson	6-1	205	So.
LT	79	Dan Dercher	6-6	285	Sr.
	53	Bob Smith	6-4	275	Fr.
LG	73	Dameon Hunt	6-2	310	Jr.
	78	Chuck Jarvis	6-6	315	So.
C	68	Chris Enneking	6-4	280	Jr.
	56	Bob Schmidt	6-1	280	So.
RG	76	Justin Glasgow	6-6	320	Sr.
	72	Shawn Vang	6-2	285	Sr.
RT	50	Michael Lies	6-2	300	Sr.
	75	Justin Hartwig	6-4	290	Fr.
TE	84	Brian Gray	6-3	235	Sr.
	80	Jason Gulley	6-3	255	So.
FLK	8	Termaine Fulton	5-10	185	So.
	2	Byron Gasaway	6-4	185	Fr.
HB	22	David Winbush	5-7	175	So.
	20	Mitch Bowles	5-8	190	Jr.
FB	33	Moran Norris	6-0	245	So.
	36	Tyrus Fontenot	5-8	230	Jr.
QB	14	Zac Wegner	6-2	220	Jr.
	6	Jay Alexander	6-2	200	Jr.
K	30	Joe Garcia	6-0	175	So.

final 15 minutes of each game only to fall in the end.

Kansas has been outscored by its foes in the fourth quarter, 45-29, through its first five games of the season.

"I really don't think we've been playing bad in the fourth quarter," Kansas quarterback Zac Wegner said. "It's important to come out and play all four quarters. Once we play all four quarters and eliminate some mistakes, we'll be a pretty good football team."

In order for Kansas to reach the upper level, the defense will have to get better before it heads into the meat of its schedule, when the Jayhawks will face Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas State in three consecutive weeks.

Opponents are averaging more than 350 yards per game against Kansas, which includes nearly 250 yards on the ground. Those numbers will have to come down if the Jayhawks are to be competitive in the stretch run this season.

Kansas' secondary has been more than adequate this season. Cornerback Muhammad Abdul-Rahim leads the Jayhawks with two interceptions, while senior Jamie Harris is a talented cover corner who excels in man-to-man situations. In fact, Kansas' entire defensive squad can defend the pass well. Nose tackle Nate Dwyer and inside linebacker Steve Bratten have both intercepted passes this season and returned them for touchdowns this fall.

Where the Jayhawks have problems is against the run. Ends Dion Johnson and Dion Rayford are solid. Rayford has one sack and four tackles for loss in the Jayhawks 3-4 alignment. Linebacker J.J. Johnson has 48 tackles, while Bratten has 47 stops and a team-high 2.5 sacks.

Offensively, the Jayhawks can hurt opponents with the pass. Wegner is one of the top quarterbacks in the Big 12 and has gotten a better grasp on the Jayhawks' offense this season. So far this fall, he's averaging nearly 200 passing yards per game and has already thrown for six touchdowns.

Wegner ranks 11th on the all-time Kansas passing chart with 1,962 yards heading into Kansas' game at Baylor. He's already thrown two more touchdown passes than he did all last season.

He has done this despite having a young group of receivers to work with. Freshmen Harrison Hill, Byron Gasaway and Henri Childs and sophomore Termaine Fulton have combined for 40 of the team's 133 catches and five touchdowns. Hill leads the team with 17 receptions for 222 yards, while Fulton has caught five touchdowns in 16 games at Kansas.

Kansas doesn't have a solid No. 1 tailback, but David Winbush and Mitch Bowles have teamed up to form a pretty formidable duo. Winbush leads the team with 325 yards on the ground while Winbush has 246 and is averaging a team-best 5.7 yards per carry. Both players had decent games against a strong Texas A&M defensive unit.

Kansas has a solid kicker in sophomore Joe Garcia. In two games this fall, Garcia has booted six field goals and has missed just three times all season. Garcia has scored 35 points this year, giving him 86 during his career which has spanned only 17 games.

In last season's meeting between the two teams, Nebraska shut out the Jayhawks in Lawrence, 35-0. Wegner will try to improve on his miserable performance in that game, in which he completed just 6 of 17 passes for 27 yards.

Nebraska outgained Kansas in total yards, 414-48, and held the Jayhawks to just five first downs. Needless to say, Kansas can't afford a repeat performance this year. ■

QB ZAC WEGNER VS NU SECONDARY

KEY MATCHUP

Quarterback Zac Wegner makes the Jayhawks' offense go, and he's sure to test the Huskers through the air. Nebraska has two All-Big 12 caliber cornerbacks in Ralph Brown and Erwin Swiney, but if Kansas has any chance of finally beating the Huskers, Wegner must have a big game.

Of course, making Wegner's job more difficult is the fact that the Huskers will be facing an inexperienced group of receivers who will be playing in front of a big crowd for the first time as college players.

The Huskers have defended the pass very well lately, but have shown a couple of signs of weakness. If they shut down Wegner, the Huskers will come away with an easy win.

If Wegner is forced to make quick reads due to pressure from the defensive linemen, Nebraska's defensive backs could find themselves the recipients of a few interceptions. ■

TALE OF THE TAPE

Who Has The Edge?

QUARTERBACKS

Kansas' Zac Wegner has been around the Big 12 block, while the Huskers are hurting. The edge goes to the most healthy QB. Unfortunately, health is a question for Husker QBs Bobby Newcombe and Eric Crouch.

RUNNING BACKS

Nebraska enjoys a large edge if DeAngelo Evans is not hurting. If not, the Huskers' committee of Buckhalter, Makovicka and Alexander is better than the Jayhawks' group. Mitch Bowles is a good one for KU.

RECEIVERS

The Jayhawks may be young, but they've shown promise. Termaine Fulton and Harrison Hill are solid, but Nebraska's group is experienced, and they've proven that they can do the job time and time again.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Kansas' front five, led by right guard Justin Glasgow, have been through the wars together. They still don't match up with Husker hogs. Injuries have hurt Huskers this season, but they still have the horses to win.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Nebraska showed signs of weakness against Oklahoma State, but they should have no trouble with the Jayhawks. Look for the Blackshirts to put up some big sack numbers against KU.

LINEBACKERS

The Jayhawks' linebacking corps is the strength of their defense. How good are they? We'll find out on Saturday, but chances are that they will be outplayed by the Huskers' steady linebackers.

SECONDARY

After a season-opening disaster against Louisiana Tech, the Huskers have been great. The secondary is the weak link in Kansas' defense, so look for the Huskers to throw deep early against the Jayhawks.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Kansas has a solid kicker in Joe Garcia and its special teams have posted three returns for touchdowns. Nebraska is always tough with Kris Brown and Bill Lafleur in the kicking game.

Chad Kelsay took off his helmet on the long walk from the south end of Kyle Field to the north end.

Nebraska and Texas A&M were changing goals during the third and fourth quarters. Kelsay had to cover nearly the entire 100 yards. The trek offered an opportunity to ponder the situation.

"I looked at that big 'N' on the side," said Kelsay, a senior rush end and co-captain. "That 'N' has been there forever. I've come through some great leaders who have been here in the past."

Among them were Grant Wistrom, Jason Peter and Christian Peter.

Kelsay also thought about watching Nebraska play on television when he was a youngster.

"All that comes in to play and you know you're not about to go down."

Not without a fight, anyway, which is how Nebraska finally did go down on an otherwise pleasant afternoon in College Station, Texas. The score was 28-21, ending the Cornhuskers' 19-game winning streak.

As Kelsay went to the north end of the field, he encouraged his teammates as best he could.

"The game wasn't over," he said. "We had a whole other quarter. I just kept telling guys, 'This game just isn't over yet; just have some pride and keep fighting.' We let them score there. That was big, but I don't think we ever gave up. That's something that doesn't happen around here."

On the first play of the fourth quarter, Ja'Mar Toombs, Texas A&M's 260-pound freshman fullback, crashed across the goalline from three yards away. Russell Bynum added the extra point kick, and with 14:57 remaining in the game, the Aggies led 28-7.

As Kelsay reminded his teammates, however, the game wasn't over, and they took him at his word, scoring two touchdowns and mounting a seven-play series that took them to their own 40-yard line. A Bobby Newcombe pass interception with 51 seconds remaining sealed their fate.

"I thought our players did a tremendous job at the end of putting themselves in position to make a great comeback, to possibly get it done," said coach Frank Solich. "It ended up being a game that could have been anybody's."

But it belonged to Texas A&M.

The Aggies, whose only loss was to Florida State (23-14) in the Kickoff Classic, were emotionally charged for the rematch of last December's Big 12 Championship game. Nebraska won handily at the Alamodome in San Antonio, 54-15. But that was another time and place.

"They play football on their home field like we play football on our home field," said Kelsay. "I know that every time I step into Memorial Stadium back home, you don't lose on that field. You spill your guts out on that field before you lose, and they do the same thing down here. I think we knew that in a way, that they were going to play like that. But maybe in another way, we didn't know quite how hard they were going to come all the time."

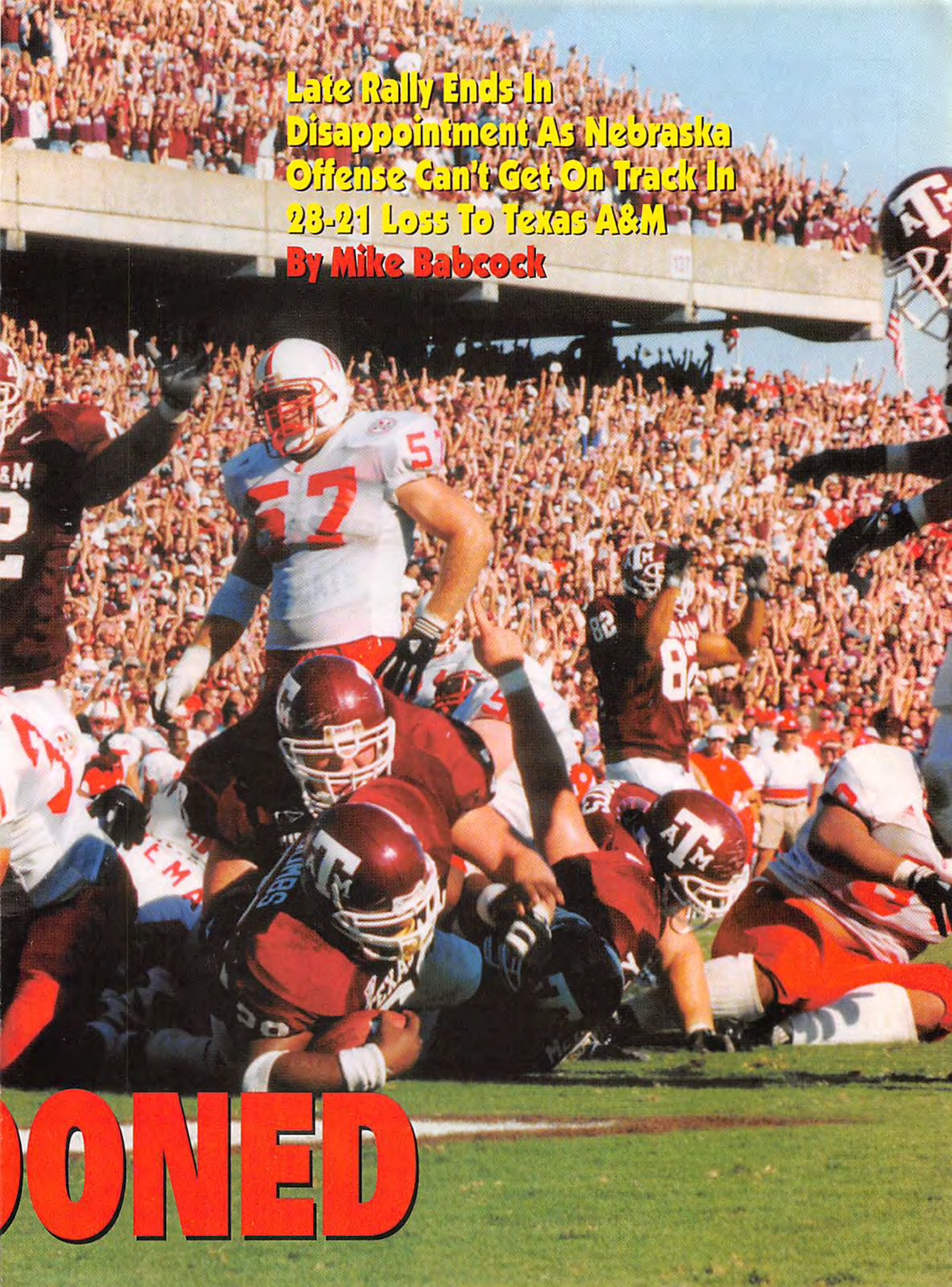
The Aggies' Wrecking Crew defense disrupted Nebraska's option for three quarters before the late run, keyed by Newcombe's passing, made the final statistics respectable.

The Cornhuskers finished with



Texas A&M fullback Ja'Mar Toombs gave the Aggies a 28-7 lead with this three-yard fourth-quarter touchdown.

Todd Bedwell



Late Rally Ends In Disappointment As Nebraska Offense Can't Get On Track In 28-21 Loss To Texas A&M

By Mike Babcock

OONED

Bob Beauvais



Bobby Newcombe was harrassed constantly by Texas A&M's defense, which shut down the option and held the Nebraska quarterback to just 56 yards rushing on 23 carries.

345 yards, 228 of which came in the fourth quarter. Newcombe completed 15 of 27 passes for 204 yards.

Sophomore Matt Davison caught 10 of the passes for 167 yards. The last Cornhusker to have more that 150 receiving yards in a game was Chuck Malito in 1976. Malito had 166 receiving yards in a 68-3 victory over Hawaii.

Davison was chosen as the Cornhuskers' Chevrolet player of the game in the regionally televised contest, an honor in which he took no pleasure.

"It really doesn't make me feel any better," he said.

There was no consolation for anyone on the Nebraska sideline.

"It's tough," Solich said with emotion. "They're hurt. They haven't been accustomed to taking a loss.

"A lot of those players have been on teams that they haven't had to accept this very often. Some haven't had to accept it, so it's tough on them right now. But I believe they will bounce back. I believe they will continue to be an excellent team."

Nebraska had won 40 consecutive conference games dating to the 1992 season, before anyone on this year's team had arrived. The loss was just the fourth in the last 69 games.

"It happens," said senior tight end Sheldon Jackson, a redshirt freshman in 1993. "You just have to put it behind you. We've bounced back before. We will again."

The signs of trouble were there from the beginning. The Cornhuskers had a net of minus-12 yards on their first offensive series.

"I thought we had a good plan coming into the game," Newcombe said. "We just couldn't get things going on the ground. They came ready to play. We kind of did, and kind of didn't."

For the second game in a row, the Cornhuskers' option offense was ineffective and didn't produce a ball carrier with 100 yards.

Newcombe was Nebraska's leading rusher with 56 yards on 23 carries. Fullback Joel Makovicka carried eight times for 51 yards. Each ran for a fourth-quarter touchdown as the Cornhuskers tried to come back.

"I felt like we were going to score and go into overtime," said Davison, whose catch of a deflected Scott Frost pass on the final play of regulation led to a tie and eventual victory last season at Missouri. "I was very positive that last drive."

But there was to be no repeat of a dramatic finish.

Still, you've got to believe such a finish is possible.

Nebraska fell victim not only to an emotional Aggie defense, but also to some big plays by the A&M offense.

The Aggies' first touchdown, midway through the first quarter, came on an 81-yard pass from quarterback Randy McCown to Chris Taylor. Nebraska appeared to have them stymied with a third-and-25.

Texas A&M's second touchdown also involved a big third down play, this time a rambling 71-yard run by Toombs.

Five minutes earlier, the Cornhuskers had taken advantage of a shanked punt to drive 48 yards on eight plays, the final seven yards being gained by I-back Correll Buckhalter for a tying touchdown.

On third-and-2 from his own 28-yard line, Toombs broke through the Nebraska defense.

"We wanted to be in a defense that brought in another interior lineman because we thought they were going to run," Solich said. "We didn't get that accomplished, and consequently

they ended up making a big play."

On the next play, the Aggies' Dante Hall carried the ball into the endzone, and with 3:37 remaining in the first half, Texas A&M led, 14-7.

The Aggie defense came up with another big play early in the third quarter when Newcombe was sacked on a third-and-19 at his own 12-yard line. Texas A&M's Ron Edwards got to Newcombe near the goal line, the ball popped loose, and the Aggies' Warrick Holdman recovered for a touchdown. With 9:13 left in the third quarter, Texas A&M was threatening to turn the upset into a rout.

Toombs' touchdown to start the final period enhanced that impression before the Cornhuskers went to work.

"It's hard to say what's going to happen," said Kelsay, who was credited with 11 tackles. "I'm not going to say tonight is going to be the most fun in my four-year career here, but these are the kind that are going to tell what kind of man you are inside.

"The wins are fun. Those are easy.

Bob Beauvais



Kyle Vanden Bosch helps finish off Texas A&M running back Dante Hall, who rushed for 113 yards and a touchdown against Nebraska.

But if you come off of something like this, you can sit, you can pout, you can feel sorry for yourself or you can ask yourself, 'are you going to get back up and step out on that field and bang around on Monday?'

"I know what kind of team we've got. We're going to come out on Monday and get the job done. We're going to come back on Monday, hit that practice field with our heads high and get better." ■

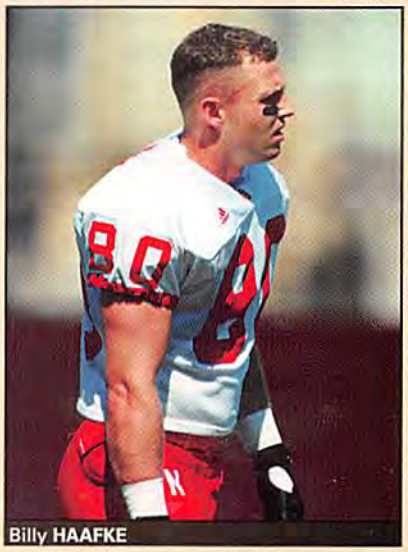
4TH & INCHES

More News From The Texas A&M Game

• Nebraska, at No. 2 in both major polls, was the highest-ranked opponent ever to be defeated by Texas A&M. The Aggies previously defeated number 4 ranked TCU, 7-6, in 1956 at Kyle Field and number 4 ranked Tulane, 14-13, in the 1940 Sugar Bowl game.

• Texas A&M's 1939 team (which played in the 1940 Sugar Bowl) was honored with national championship rings in a ceremony at halftime of the Nebraska-Texas A&M game.

Bob Beauvais



Billy HAAFKE

• Aggie fullback **Ja'Mar Toombs** is a true freshman with lots of talent. He got his chance to play because **Marc Broyles**, the starter in 1997, was sidelined by a rare eye condition, and **D'Andre Hardeman**, the starter at the beginning of the season, was suspended indefinitely from the Aggie football team. Toombs finished with a career-high 110 rushing yards and his first career touchdown on 10 carries. His 71-yard carry set up a **Dante Hall** touchdown.

• Cornhuskers' split end **Matt Davison** started for the first time in his young career and responded 10 receptions for 167 yards. The last time Nebraska had a receiver with 100 or more yards in a game was in 1995 when wingback **Clester Johnson** had 129 receiving yards. Davison, a sophomore from Tecumseh, Neb., was starting because senior **Kenny Cheatham** suffered a slight shoulder separation in the Oklahoma State game.

• Nebraska had won eight consecutive games against nationally-ranked opponents. The Cornhuskers' last loss to a ranked team was in 1996, when Arizona State defeated them, 19-0, in Tempe.

• The Cornhuskers began their final series of the game at their own 20-yard line with two minutes remining. They would have had a little more time had it not been for a pass interference call against **Ralph Brown** on an incomplete Texas A&M pass on third-and-15 from the Aggie 17-yard line.

Nebraska coach **Frank Solich** was asked after the game his opinion of the interference call.

"My viewpoint, and certainly I'm coming from a biased view, I didn't see any flags for a long period of time," he said. "So I thought from where I saw it, the play was very clean.

"I thought the officials felt that way too, but that wasn't the case." As a result, Texas A&M was able to run three more plays and time off the clock before punting.

• Nebraska responded quickly to Texas A&M's third touchdown with **Shevin Wiggins** returning the kickoff 40 yards to the Aggies 49-yard line. The Cornhuskers needed five plays to get to the Texas A&M 10-yard line before bogging down. On fourth-and-2, Wiggins was tackled for a four-yard loss on a wingback reverse.

Said Solich: "The feeling was, we had looked at the reverse for a good share of the game and it was there in the first half. We thought the way they were pursuing that we'd have a chance and maybe put it in the endzone. They did bring a corner from the weak side and that ended up being the guy who was in the face of the reverse man. So it ended up the right call for the wrong place."

• After entering the game with one career reception, senior split end **Billy Haafke** tripled that number with three receptions for 23 yards against Texas A&M.

The walk-on from South Sioux City, Neb., made a couple of crucial receptions during the Cornhuskers' fourth-quarter rally. ■

1998 Schedule/Record (5-1)

Aug. 29	vs. Louisiana Tech$	W, 56-27
Sept. 5	Ala.-Birmingham	W, 38-7
Sept. 12	@ California	W, 24-3
Sept. 26	Washington	W, 55-7
Oct. 3	vs. Oklahoma St.&	W, 24-17
Oct. 10	@ Texas A&M	L, 28-21
Oct. 17	Kansas	12:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	Missouri	12:30 p.m.
Oct. 31	Texas	12:30 p.m.
Nov. 7	@ Iowa St.	1 p.m.
Nov. 14	@ Kansas St.	1:10 p.m.
Nov. 27	Colorado	1:30 p.m.

$ Eddie Robinson Football Classic • Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
& Arrowhead Stadium • Kansas City, Mo.
(Times are subject to change and are Central)

By the Numbers

Texas A&M vs Nebraska
Oct. 10, 1998 • College Station, Texas

Score By Quarters

Nebraska	**0**	**7**	**0**	**14**	**—**	**21**
Texas A&M	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**	**—**	**28**

Team Stats

	A&M	NU
First Downs	12	17
Rushing	9	9
Passing	1	8
Penalty	2	0
Rushing Attempts	57	44
Yards Gained Rushing	293	175
Yards Lost Rushing	34	34
Net Yards Rushing	259	141
Net Yards Passing	93	204
Passes Attempted	8	27
Passes Completed	2	15
Had Intercepted	1	1
Total Plays	65	71
Total Net Yards	352	345
Avg. Gain Per Play	5.4	4.9
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	8-60	5-67
Punts-Yards	8-362	6-280
Avg. Per Punt	45.3	46.7
Punt Returns-Yards	4-31	5-50
Interceptions-Yards	1-9	1-43
Fumble Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	1-13	4-69
Possession Time	31:21	28:39



Joe Walker makes one of his four tackles against Dante Hall, but it wasn't enough for the Blackshirts.

Individual Leaders

NEBRASKA

RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Newcombe, B.	23	56	2.4	20	1
Makovicka, J.	8	51	6.4	22	1
Evans, D.	10	31	3.1	8	0
Buckhalter, C.	2	7	3.5	7	1
Wiggins, S.	1	-4	-4.0	-4	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Newcombe, B.	15-27-1	55.6	204	0

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Davison, M.	10	167	16.7	49	0
Haafke, B.	3	23	7.7	9	0
Evans, D.	1	9	9.0	9	0
Wiggins, S.	1	5	5.0	5	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	Att.	Good	LNG
none			

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Walker, J.	4	46	11.5	21	0
Wiggins, S.	1	4	4.0	4	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Jackson, S.	2	19	9.5	11	0
Wiggins, S.	1	40	40.0	40	0
Walker, J.	1	10	10.0	10	0

DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Kelsay, C.	5	6	11	2-12	0	1-10
Kaiser, L.	5	3	8	0	0	0
Foreman, J.	3	5	8	0	0	0
Rucker, M.	4	2	6	2-4	0	0
Brown, M.	2	4	6	0	0	0
Shaw, B.	4	1	5	1-3	0	0
Johnson, E.	1	4	5	1-1	0	1-1
Finley, C.	0	5	5	0	0	0
Walker, J.	3	1	4	0	0	0
Wiltz, J.	1	3	4	0	0	0
Ortiz, T.	2	1	3	1-3	0	0
Kohl, J.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Swiney, E.	1	1	2	1-1	0	1-1
Vanden Bosch, K.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Wills, A.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Brown, R.	1	0	1	0	1-43	0
Polk, C.	0	1	1	0	0	0

TEXAS A&M

RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Hall, D.	32	113	3.5	22	1
Toombs, J.	10	110	11.0	71	1
McCown, R.	12	26	2.2	33	0
Parker, S.	3	10	3.3	5	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
McCown, R.	2-8-1	25.0	93	0

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Taylor, C.	1	81	81.0	81	1
Cole, C.	1	12	12.0	12	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	Att.	Good	LNG
none			

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Taylor, C.	4	31	7.8	14	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Hall, D.	1	13	13.0	13	0

DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Webster, J.	4	7	11	1-4	0	0
Bradley, R.	4	5	9	1-5	0	1-5
Anthony, C.	2	7	9	1-5	0	1-5
Nguyen, D.	3	5	8	0	0	0
Holdman, W.	3	5	8	3-9	0	1-4
Coady, R.	2	5	7	0	0	0
Glenn, J.	2	5	7	0	0	0
Brooks, J.	5	0	5	0	0	0
Edwards, R.	2	3	5	1-12	0	1-12
Jameson, M.	2	2	4	0	0	0
Jennings, B.	1	3	4	1-1	0	0
Curry, S.	1	2	3	0	1-9	0
Flemons, R.	0	3	3	0	0	0
Jones, T.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Nichols, T.	0	2	2	0	0	0
Madison, L.	1	0	1	1-2	0	0
Patton, R.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Bernard, R.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Perroni, E.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Simon, A.	0	1	1	0	0	0

'98 Season Stats

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Buckhalter, C.	6	56	344	57.3	4
Makovicka, J.	6	56	276	46.0	2
Evans, D.	3	38	218	72.7	4
Crouch, E.	4	25	134	33.5	4
Newcombe, B.	4	62	169	42.3	7
Alexander, D.	6	22	87	14.5	1
Miller, W.	6	12	72	12.0	2
Christo, M.	3	20	63	21.0	0
Wiggins, S.	6	5	28	4.7	0
Brown, L.	1	1	13	13.0	0
Runty, J.	2	1	5	2.5	0
Legate, B.	3	2	5	1.7	0
White, D.	4	1	4	1.0	0
Gragert, N.	1	1	3	3.0	0
Kingston, B.	1	1	3	3.0	0
Tillery, A.	1	1	3	3.0	0
Stanislav, J.	1	1	1	1.0	0
London, F.	5	1	-2	-0.4	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Newcombe, B.	4	38-60-0	63.3	508	1
Crouch, E.	4	19-37-1	51.4	236	1
Christo, M.	3	14-17-0	82.4	196	2

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	TD
Davison, M.	6	22	280	12.7	46.7	0
Wiggins, S.	6	12	180	10.5	30.0	1
Cheatham, K.	5	10	88	8.8	17.6	0
Jackson, S.	6	9	246	27.3	41.0	2
Buckhalter, C.	6	5	27	5.4	3.5	0
Debates, T.J.	4	2	27	13.5	6.8	0
Haafke, B.	5	5	38	7.6	7.6	0
Evans, D.	3	3	23	7.7	7.7	0
Wistrom, T.	4	1	63	63.0	15.8	1
Makovicka, J.	6	1	17	17.0	2.8	0
Brown, L.	1	1	11	11.0	11.0	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, K.	5	5	3	48

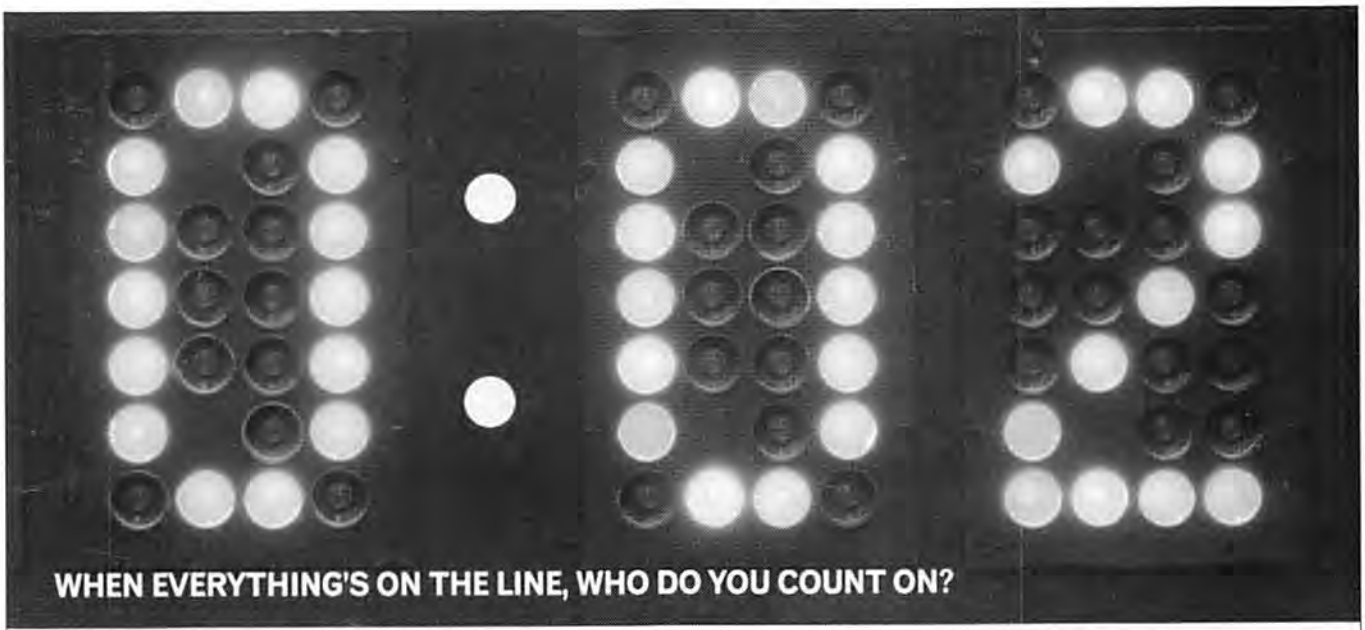
DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	S/Yds.
Foreman, J.	6	21	23	44	3-7	0	1-3
Brown, M.	6	18	23	41	2-3	1-1	0
Johnson, E.	6	18	18	36	5-17	0	4-16
Swiney, E.	6	22	10	32	4-17	0	2-12
Kelsay, C.	6	23	16	39	8-39	1-0	4-30
Walker, J.	6	16	12	28	2-6	1-0	0
Brown, R.	6	13	6	19	0	1-43	0
Shaw, B.	6	10	12	22	2-5	0	0
Ortiz, T.	5	10	9	19	3-7	0	1-3
Kaiser, L.	5	10	13	23	1-1	0	5-16
Warren, S.	6	8	8	16	0	0	0
Rucker, M.	6	11	9	20	2-4	0	0
Vanden Bosch, K.	6	6	8	20	4-36	0	2-29
Jackson, J.	6	6	4	10	2-19	0	2-19
Wiltz, J.	4	6	7	13	0	2-32	0
Polk, C.	6	6	2	8	2-5	1-16	0
Vedral, M.	5	3	3	6	0	0	0
Wills, A.	5	4	2	6	0	0	0
Craver, K.	3	2	3	5	0	0	0
Reynolds, K.	4	4	1	5	1-5	0	0
Toline, T.	5	4	1	5	0	0	0
Finley, C.	3	2	7	9	0	0	0
Lohr, J.	5	2	2	4	0	0	0
Raymond, S.	3	2	0	2	0	0	0
Slechta, J.	3	1	1	2	1-3	0	1-3
Wichmann, J.P.	2	1	1	2	0	0	0
Burrow, J.	4	1	1	2	0	0	0
Kohl, J.	5	2	3	5	0	0	0
Woodward, W.	1	1	0	1	0	0	0

TEAM STATISTICS

	NU	OPP
Total Offensive Yards	2427	1995
Plays	421	429
Average Per Play	5.8	4.7
Average Per Game	347.0	273.8
Net Rushing Yards	1427	676
Attempts	307	228
TDs Rushing	24	4
Net Passing Yards	1000	1319
Attempts	114	191
Completions	71	101
Average Per Pass	8.8	6.9
Average Per Catch	14.1	13.1
Average Per Game	166.7	219.8
TDs Passing	4	7
Sacks By-Yards	18-120	7-50
Fumbles-Lost	9-5	12-3
Penalties-Yards	30-287	62-455

Scoring	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
NU	49	66	41	62	0	218
Opponents	10	27	32	20	0	89



WHEN EVERYTHING'S ON THE LINE, WHO DO YOU COUNT ON?

There's nothing quite like the feeling of knowing that when a pressure situation arises, you've got a clutch performer on your team. Someone who's been there before. Someone who's put in the sweat and studied the films – and knows how to get it done.

That's the same feeling you get from an American Family Insurance agent. They're proud of what they do. Ready to take action. And standing tall at the line at crunch time. If you've been looking for that kind of confidence, give us a call – we won't drop the ball.

© 1997 American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its subsidiaries. Home office – Madison, WI 53783

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE®
AUTO HOME BUSINESS HEALTH LIFE

All Your Protection Under One Roof.

www.amfam.com

Sports Cases by Antietam House

Solid Oak Construction • No Plexiglass • No Particle Board

E2 style is top loading with glass on 4 sides. E2GT style* (not shown) is the same as the E2 style but has a glass top.



E2FH: $88.95
E2GTFH: $101.95*



E2FV: $84.95
E2GTFV: $97.95*

DCP style is rear loading with glass on 3 sides.



DCPFH: $58.95



DCPFV: $58.95



E2H: $136.95
E2GTH: $149.95*



E2BSV: $118.95
E2GTBSV: $131.95*

*Not Shown

Many other display case are available. For information or to place an order, please call:
(402) 944-7673

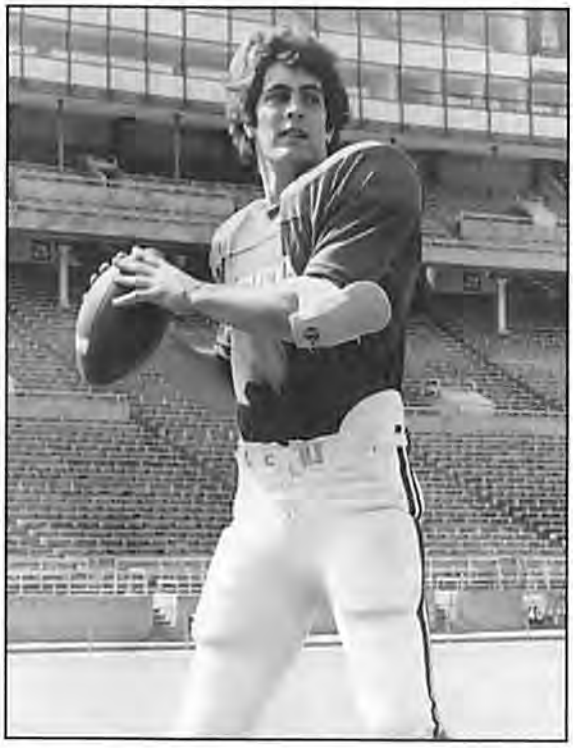
All prices include UPS delivery (in the contiguous U.S.A. only). For shipment outside this area, call for rates. Nebraska residents add 6% sales tax. We accept all major credit cards. Personal printed checks and money orders welcome. Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery. Collectible contents not included.

DISCOVER NOVUS · VISA · MasterCard · AMERICAN EXPRESS Cards

Antietam House • 306 N. 16th • Ashland, NE 68003 • (402) 944-7673

NU's Top 10 QBs...

Vince FERRAGAMO



Believe it or not, Nebraska led the Big Eight Conference in passing in 1976 behind the last quarterback recruited by Tom Osborne prior to the Huskers' switch to option football

Vince Ferragamo was recruited by Nebraska out of Banning High School in Carson, Calif. He signed a Big Eight Conference letter-of-intent with the Cornhuskers, in fact.

But times were different then. Athletes signed multiple conference letters-of-intent before signing a national letter. So Ferragamo settled on California after almost picking Stanford.

He was persuaded to accept California's scholarship offer by Mike White, who had just been hired as the Golden Bears' head coach after serving as an assistant at Stanford. White had developed a good relationship with Ferragamo while recruiting the prep All-American for Stanford.

Ferragamo played two seasons at California, starting three games as a true freshman and most of his sophomore season. When White began alternating him with Steve Bartkowski in 1973, however, Ferragamo decided to transfer. He considered San Diego State, but settled on Nebraska.

Coach Tom Osborne's offense appeared to be a good fit for Ferragamo, who passed for 364 yards and four touchdowns in a Los Angeles area high school all-star game following his senior year.

The Cornhuskers' pass-oriented attack was built around quarterback Dave Humm, who was a senior in 1974, the season Ferragamo sat out under NCAA rules as a transfer redshirt.

Good fit or not, Ferragamo's rise to prominence wasn't easy. Ferragamo once described the depth chart at quarterback as looking like "Mt. Everest" at the beginning of spring practice in 1975.

After Ferragamo's departure, Osborne began recruiting quarterbacks who could run, in reaction to the Nebraska's inability to win against Oklahoma and its Wishbone offense.

Oft-injured Terry Luck was a senior. Ed Burns was a junior like Ferragamo. Randy Garcia and Tom Sorley were sophomores. And all except Burns had been scholarship recruits.

There were so many candidates that junior Earl Everett was moved to wingback that spring.

Ferragamo played well enough during the spring to work his way up the depth chart to No. 2, which he shared with Garcia, who was coming off a redshirt. Luck went into the fall at No. 1.

Ferragamo's Cornhusker career was delayed briefly when he sat out the first game in 1975 against LSU. He missed the game as a result of an NCAA suspension imposed on Nebraska because he and a couple of other redshirts had been included on the travel roster for the Sugar Bowl game the previous season.

Ferragamo came off the bench to throw his first touchdown pass in the third game, a 56-14 victory against Texas Christian at Memorial Stadium. He threw a second touchdown pass the next week in leading the Cornhuskers to a 31-16 comeback victory against Miami at home. He started the fifth game, a 16-0 victory against Kansas in Lincoln before giving way to Luck.

A week later, Ferragamo again relieved Luck, who left Nebraska's first road game at Oklahoma State in the first quarter because of an eye injury. Ferragamo passed for two touchdowns and scored two touchdowns in a 28-20 victory. He was the

FIELD GENERALS

Dennis Claridge	1961-63
Bob Churchich	1964-66
Jerry Tagge	1969-71
Dave Humm	1972-74
Vince Ferragamo	1975-76
Turner Gill	1980-83
Steve Taylor	1985-88
Gerry Gdowski	1987-89
Tommie Frazier	1992-95
Scott Frost	1996-97

starter for the remainder of his career.

Despite the delayed start, Ferragamo led the Big Eight in touchdown passes in 1975 with 12, and he was chosen as the conference Offensive Newcomer of the Year by the UPI.

"At one point, we were recruiting quarterbacks primarily for their throwing ability," said former Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne.

Nebraska led the conference in passing in 1976, averaging 188 yards per game — the highest in Osborne's 25 seasons as head coach and second-highest in school history.

Ferragamo, who had ranked third behind Missouri's Steve Pisarkiewicz and Colorado's David Williams in 1975, was the Big Eight's best passer during his senior season, completing 145-of-254 (57.1 percent) for 2,071 yards and 20 touchdowns with only nine interceptions.

The total of 20 touchdowns remains a school single-season record, while the yardage ranks second all-time at Nebraska behind Humm's 2,074 yards during his sophomore season in 1972.

Ferragamo was a consensus pick as the All-Big Eight first-team quarterback in 1976. He was an Academic All-American, and he earned All-America honors from the *Football News*.

Even though he played only two seasons, he is fifth on the Cornhuskers' career-passing list, completing 224-of-389 (57.6) for 3,224 yards and 32 touchdowns with 13 interceptions.

Ferragamo left Nebraska as a fourth-round draft pick of the Los Angeles Rams. He was the fourth quarterback selected in 1977, behind Pisarkiewicz (St. Louis), Tommy Kramer of Rice (Minnesota) and Glen Carano of Nevada-Las Vegas (Dallas).

He played nine years in the NFL and one in the Canadian Football League with the Montreal Alouettes.

His best professional season was with the Rams in 1983, when he completed 274-of-464 passes for 3,276 yards and 22 touchdowns. But his most notable game was Super Bowl XIV, when he replaced an injured Pat Haden and passed for 212 yards in a 31-19 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Ferragamo was released by the Green Bay Packers after seeing limited action in three games in 1986. He considered an acting career, making cameo television appearances and commuting 100 miles round trip from Orange County to Hollywood to take acting lessons for a year.

But he began selling real estate and now owns Touchdown Realty in the Los Angeles area.

After his departure, Osborne began recruiting quarterbacks who could run, in reaction to the Cornhuskers' inability to win against Oklahoma and its Wishbone offense.

Nebraska lost five games in Ferragamo's two seasons, two of them to the Sooners. The 1976 loss was the fifth in a row against Oklahoma, including four under Osborne.

Ferragamo completed his Cornhusker career in appropriate fashion, throwing for 183 yards and two touchdowns in a 27-24 victory against Texas Tech in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl.

"I think probably I moved philosophically from a coach who was fairly heavily into the passing game to one who was more run-oriented," Osborne has said.

That wasn't because he lacked the offensive imagination to pass.

Osborne's command of the passing game was "tremendous," Ferragamo has said.

And so was he as a passer. ■

10 QUESTIONS

Huskers Illustrated *talks with right corner KHARI REYNOLDS*

1 New Jersey (his home state) seems to get picked on a lot?
Most people don't understand it. They've never been there. They hear about it, and then they just want to join in with what other people are saying. But it's a great place to live.

2 Better New Jersey rock and roll star — Bruce Springsteen or Jon Bon Jovi? I'd have to say Bruce. I know about Bon Jovi, but Bruce is a bigger star.

3 What has been the toughest adjustment in moving from New Jersey to Nebraska?
The pace of life. It's a lot slower in Nebraska. It's not even half as fast.

4 What's the main difference between Coach Osborne and Coach Solich?
Coach Solich is probably more fiery. He tends to show his emotion, which is pretty good for us. We tend to respond to that a little bit more. They're both great coaches, and they both recruited me. So I like them both.

5 Who is the most difficult Nebraska receiver to cover one-on-one?
Shevin Wiggins. He's slick. Just when you think you have him, he cuts and makes you look really stupid.

Scott Bruhn



Reynolds gives "Born To Run" the edge over "Livin' On A Prayer."

6 What has been your favorite moment at Nebraska?
Winning a national championship last season.

7 Was Magic Johnson's talk show really that bad?
Yes. It was bad. He wasn't good at it at all. From the time he tried it to the time it went off the air, he was never good at it. I saw it once and never watched it again. He had some good guests, but as a host, he wasn't the best.

8 If you could change any one of the rules that govern the student-athlete, what would it be?
Probably getting paid to play. I think we should be paid. A lot of people think we get a lot of stuff handed to us. But we spend more time practicing than most people spend at a part-time job.

9 Who's the best option quarterback you've ever seen?
Darian Hagan. Colorado was really the only (option) team I used to see back in Jersey. I never really heard of Nebraska until they played Florida State all those years (in bowl games). So I really don't know about the old Nebraska quarterbacks. I was just starting to learn about Nebraska when **Tommie Frazier** was leaving. Probably, if I knew a little more, I'd say Tommie Frazier.

10 What's your favorite practice drill?
On Fridays, before games, the DBs get in a circle. Whoever lives the closest to the state of the team we're playing has to do a little dance. We have to follow them and mock them. We put our helmets on backward. It's funny. ■

And so it came to pass for Nebraska . . .

Well, not really. It has just seemed that way.

"People think we're throwing a lot," senior split end Kenny Cheatham said recently. "It looks like we're throwing a lot. But in reality it's pretty much the same. We're just executing better. We're catching the ball. We're making the plays. We've just been more precise in our passing game."

The Cornhusker offense remains run-oriented. Take it from Cheatham.

"It's more of a perception," he said. "We're just more accurate."

The California game was an important element of such a perception.

Nebraska quarterbacks Eric Crouch and Monte Christo combined to throw 28 passes against the Golden Bears.

The Cornhuskers last put the ball in the air that often in a game in 1995, when they threw 36 passes in a 49-7 victory against Pacific. They completed 16 for 162 yards, with two interceptions in that game.

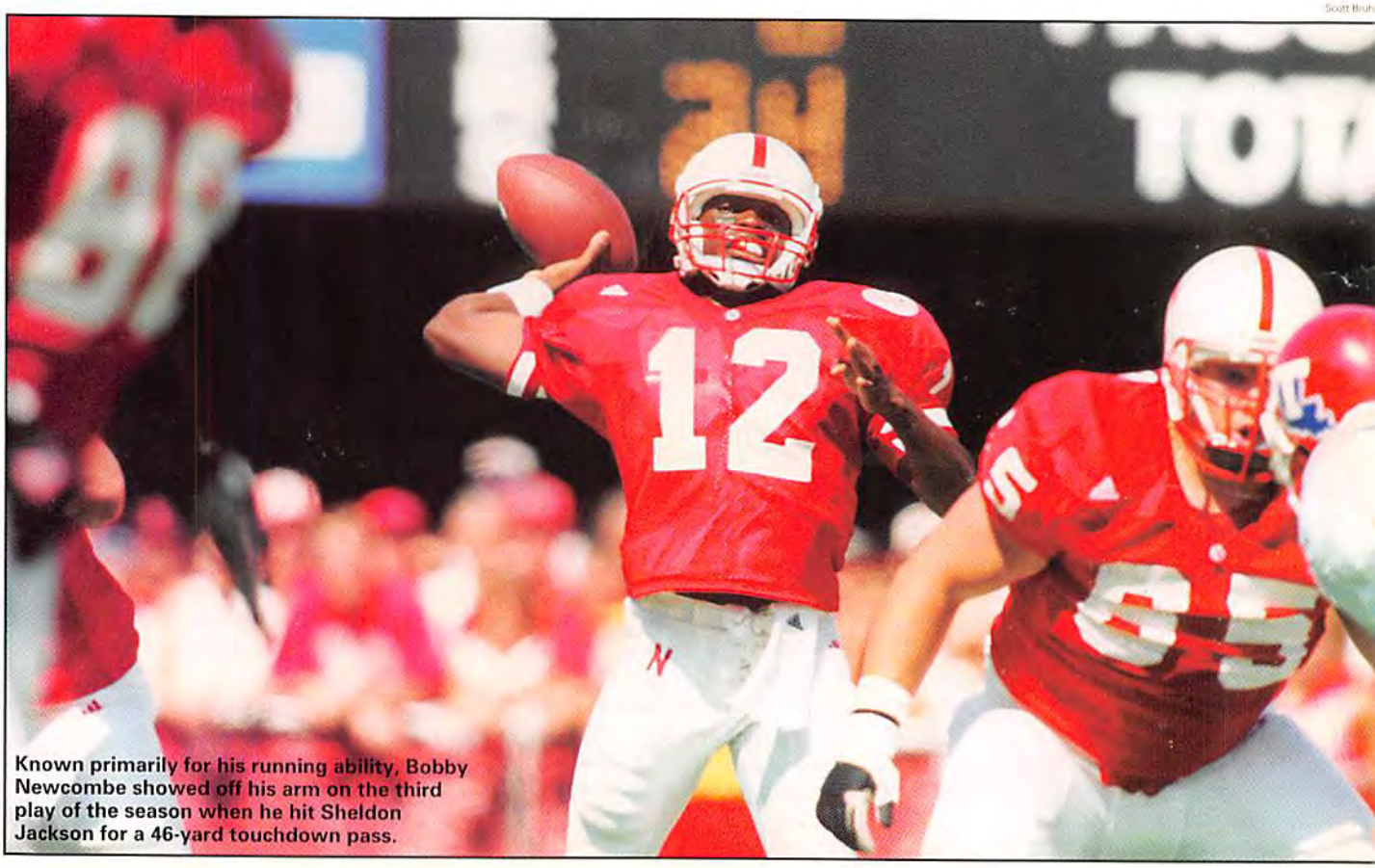
They had thrown more than 28 passes in only two other games during the 1990s, attempting 30 in a victory over Texas Tech in 1993 and 29 in a loss against Washington in 1991.

Coming To Pass

While the Cornhuskers have enjoyed some success through the air this season, Frank Solich doesn't plan on abandoning Nebraska's run-first philosophy any time soon

By Mike BABCOCK

Scott Bruh



Known primarily for his running ability, Bobby Newcombe showed off his arm on the third play of the season when he hit Sheldon Jackson for a 46-yard touchdown pass.

More often than not, 20 passes in a game was a lot for a Tom Osborne team from 1980 on. Nebraska has averaged more than 150 passing yards per game in only two seasons since 1976, when it averaged 188 yards per game — the most under Osborne and the second-most in school history.

The 1972 team ranked eighth in the nation in passing yards, averaging 221 per game.

Last season, Nebraska ranked 104th in the nation (out of 112 Division I-A teams) in passing, averaging 121.1 yards per game. In the first three games this season, the Cornhuskers averaged 187 yards, further fueling the belief that coach Frank Solich was more pass-friendly than his predecessor.

That average dropped to 163.5 after the Washington game, in which Nebraska threw only nine passes. The Cornhuskers were efficient, completing six for 93 yards.

The nine passes were "my all-time low, I think," Solich joked.

"I don't see us as a passing team," senior tight end Sheldon Jackson told the *Omaha World-Herald*. "We're just catching the ball better this year. It's a good thing. It backs teams up.

"They're going to think twice about crowding the line and daring us to throw."

Nebraska sent that message on the third play of the season, when quarterback Bobby Newcombe teamed up with Sheldon Jackson for 46 yards and a touchdown against Louisiana Tech.

The next week, Crouch threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Jackson on a fourth-and-1 play.

So it appeared the Cornhuskers were off and passing.

Passing? Running? It's all relative, according to Cheatham, who would have Cornhusker quarterbacks throwing two or even three times as many passes on the average during games if he were an offensive coordinator,

"I'd probably throw the ball maybe 60 times a game," he said. "I like the passing myself, being a receiver. I used to like running when I was younger, when I played running back. But I've always thought quarterback and receiver were the glorified positions.

"I've always wanted to be a receiver. Running, you do that to keep people off-balance and to get the short yardage, to set up passes — and (to get) some long gains."

Nebraska takes an opposite approach, keeping defenses off-balance with occasional passes, a philosophy to which Cheatham has had to become accustomed.

"Last year I accepted it well," he said. "And this year I'm fine, no problems with it. My motto is: If it's thrown to you, catch it and make something out of it. The philosophy of running the ball doesn't really worry me that much anymore."

That the Cornhusker offense hasn't become Air Solich means Cheatham and the other receivers have to make the most of their limited opportunities, the way they did under Osborne.

That means catching everything within reach. "We feel as a receiving corps, if it's in the vicinity of our hands, in our range, then we should have it," said Cheatham. "There's no excuse for you to get a hand or even a finger on the ball and not catch it. So we take pride in that.

"We take pride in catching the ball with our hands so that we can be able to do something once we've got it, instead of catching the ball with our chest and not being able to move."

Receivers coach Ron Brown emphasizes catching the ball with the hands instead of trapping it against the chest, Cheatham said. "That makes a big difference because when you use your body to catch, it's not secure. Once it hits the body and you lock it in, you have to secure it with your hands.

"When you catch with your hands, as soon as you catch it, you can just lock it up without hesitation, (without) worrying about where the defender is or putting it in the right position."

Catching with the hands also is easier, according to Cheatham, who was tied with I-back Ahman Green for the team lead in pass receptions last season with 14, for 191 yards — a total that was third on the team behind split end Matt Davison (11-232) and wingback Lance Brown (12-226).

Had wingback Shevin Wiggins been able to catch Scott Frost's final pass in regulation against Missouri last season, he "would have been the star" instead of the freshman Davison, said Cheatham. "Shevin tried to cradle the ball to protect it, and it hit and bounced out because of the ricochet."

"You have to use your chest sometimes, for the low, low catches, things like that. But it (catching with the hands) makes a lot of things easier. That's what separates the great players in the NFL from a lot of the average receivers. It's something I always took pride in when I was in high school.

"I was always taught to catch with my hands."

The same is true for the other Cornhusker receivers.

"We want to be known for having great hands, catching the ball with our hands," said Cheatham. "Because if the ball is in front of you, you can't lay out and catch it with your chest. You're going to have to use your hands. Without using your hands, it's going to be a difficult catch."

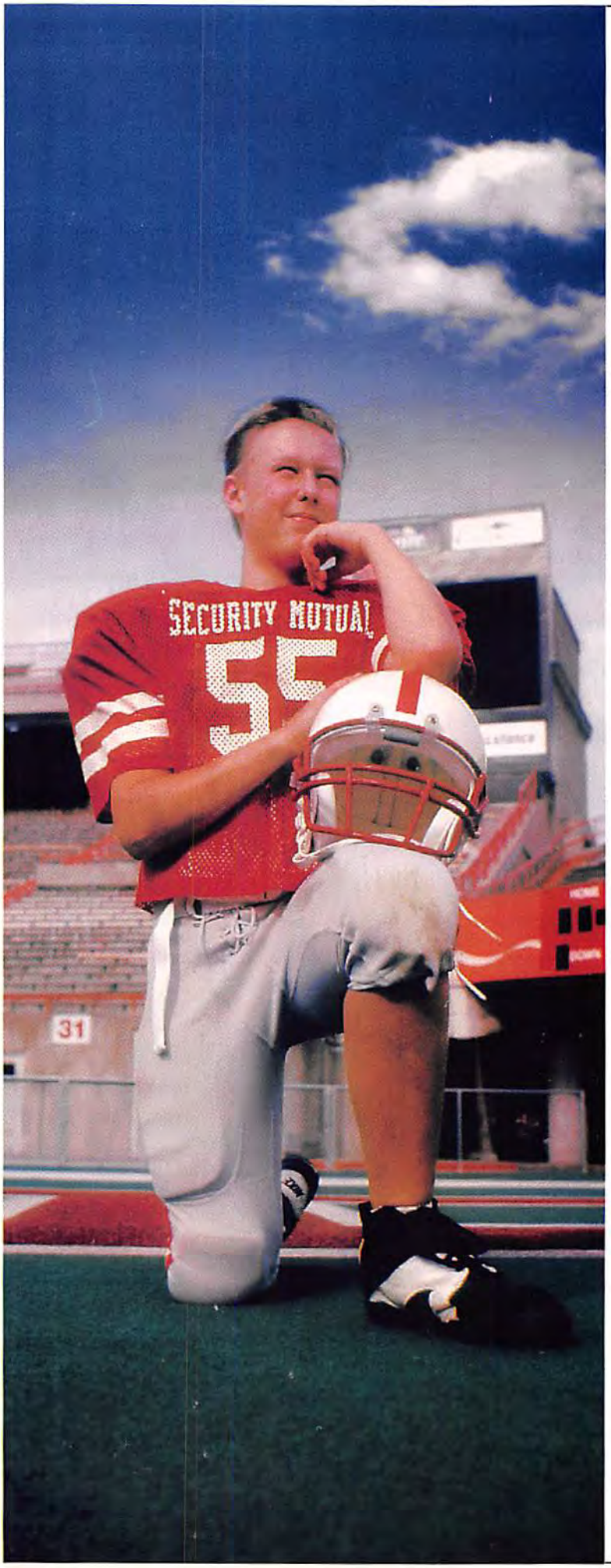
Even though Nebraska's receivers don't amass eye-catching pass receiving statistics, they compare favorably with the best in the nation, according to Cheatham.



Eric Crouch did not throw any touchdown passes in this game at Cal, but he did complete 11 of 17 passes and threw for a touchdown against Alabama-Birmingham.

Plus, they can block, a skill lacking in receivers at many schools.

Newcombe, Crouch and Christo are good enough passers that if they were to throw 60 times a game (Cheatham's dream offense), they could be successful.



We believe in hard work, determination and commitment...

It's these qualities that have kept us strong and vital. And in business for 100 years. Whether it's through providing affordable life insurance protection for our policyholders, or supporting our midget football teams, we're dedicated to the principles of hard work, determination and commitment. Just like the Huskers.

Security Mutual Life. Celebrating a Century of Security.

SECURITY MUTUAL LIFE 1895-1995

200 Centennial Mall North
402/434-9500

Also in his dream offense, the split ends would be the big-play receivers. In Nebraska's system, the tight end often gets the big-play opportunities — as has been the case with Jackson.

"We joke about that with each other all the time, me and Shevin," said Cheatham. "We need to play tight end because of the deep balls . . . that's where we need to play. Then I get on the wingbacks, too, because they get to run the deep routes, while the split ends have more of the possession routes."

That's not perception, as far as Cheatham is concerned. That's a fact.

Solich, like Osborne, has a run-first offensive philosophy.

"We've always wanted to build our structure on running the football, and I think we've made some steps in that regard," he said after the Washington game. "I don't believe it's that we didn't have a running game earlier on. But we do have some inexperienced linemen, and we did end up using three quarterbacks, and it's tough in terms of continuity of what you're trying to get done (offensively)."

NO PASSING FANCY
Nebraska in the 1990s

Year	Att.	Comp.	Int.	TD	Avg. Yds./Gm
1997	99	182	4	5	121.1
1996	113	222	3	14	130.5
1995	123	228	6	18	156.4
1994	120	210	7	15	137.8
1993	103	201	6	16	137.1
1992	91	199	7	15	110.0
1991	116	205	8	15	153.3
1990	70	157	12	15	104.4

What made the situation more conducive to passing early in the season was opposing defenses were stacking the line of scrimmage. That wasn't always the case in the Washington game.

The Cornhuskers rushed for 434 yards against Washington. The best they had done in the first three games was 289 yards rushing against Louisiana Tech.

Solich's goal is to develop a multiple offense. "I guess that's what we're striving for, because if you want to keep winning, there are times when you're got to run the ball and there are times when you've got to throw the ball," he said. "So we'll keep working on all of those things."

It will come to pass for Nebraska. But only on occasion.

The run's still the thing, much to the chagrin of Cheatham. ■

NEBRASKA ORTHOPAEDIC AND SPORTS MEDICINE, PC

Proud to be your Husker Team Physicians

Patrick E. Clare, M.D.
Robert W. Dugas, M.D.
William F. Garvin, M.D.
David P. Heiser, M.D.
Thomas M. Heiser, M.D.
Daniel R. Ripa, M.D.
Scott E. Strasburger, M.D.

6940 Van Dorn, Suite 201
Lincoln, Nebraska 68506
(402) 488-3322



All You'd Expect in a Fine Hotel,
Plus Regency Shopping!

- 150 Comfortable Guest Rooms
- Full-Sized Indoor Pool, Sauna, Hot Tub, Workout Room
- Meeting Rooms, Ballroom, Banquet Facilities
- Restaurant/Jolly Jack's Pub
- Satellite & Teleconferencing Facilities
- Free Airport Shuttle

Best Western

Best Western Regency West
I-680 & Pacific • 909 South 107th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68114
Phone (402) 397-8000

Call Toll-Free 1-800-228-9414
for Reservations.

MELLOW NOT YELLOW

McBride's preseason tongue-lashing proved to be just the kick in the backside that an uninspired Blackshirt squad needed

By Mike BABCOCK

An early-August headline in the *Lincoln Journal Star* said: Mellower McBride ready to go.

In the story beneath the headline, McBride was quoted as saying he thought he might be "mellowing out" after 21 seasons at Nebraska, including the last 16 as defensive coordinator.

Less than two weeks later, McBride sat on the bleachers in the southeast corner of Memorial Stadium and discussed the Cornhuskers' final major scrimmage of preseason practice.

He questioned the character of the defense. Never mind that it was weary from two-a-days.

"We looked slow, fat and heavy. I didn't see any quickness or speed," he said. The defense hadn't shown any leadership during the scrimmage, "nobody pushing themselves or each other.

"That was the worst scrimmage I've seen in six or seven years. I can think of three bad scrimmages in the last six years, and this was the worst. I felt like I was back coaching in high school. We couldn't beat Louisiana Tech today. I don't know who we could beat right now."

There could be no doubt about how he felt. "This scares me to death," he said.

McBride might have mellowed — which is a relative concept, anyway — but he hasn't gotten any less honest and direct. The defensive players "needed to know that if I'm going to be around here, I'm going to tell them exactly what I think," he said a month and a half and four games, later.

"And at that time, I didn't think they were playing very well."

The defense had given up touchdown runs of 44, 39 and 26 yards a week after it had allowed 64-yard touchdown runs by DeAngelo Evans and Monte Christo in another scrimmage. "I didn't think the improvement was that much over what we had done the week before," said McBride.

"I was concerned a little bit. As practice goes on, you've got to improve. I didn't see a lot of effort by a lot of the players I expected more out of. I think they were tired, and I was trying to push them a little and show them a sense of urgency. And I was probably a little bit upset."

The defensive players "needed to know that if I'm going to be around here, I'm going to tell them exactly what I think."
Charlie McBride

Probably? A little bit? Try definitely. And a lot.

"The biggest thing in preseason (practice) is a sense of urgency and concentration when you get tired," McBride said. "You can't level off and say: Let's just get through this scrimmage.

"In order to be a good team, you have to push yourself."

The problems were compounded by high expectations. Nebraska's defense was expected to carry the team early in the season while sophomore quarterback Bobby Newcombe and an inexperienced offensive line developed. "We're going to be a good defense," senior rush end Mike Rucker said.

"And hopefully, we can come out and prove that the first game."

The problems in the spring were compounded by high expectations placed upon Mike Rucker and his defensive teammates to carry the load in the early games while the offense tried to answer key questions.

Rucker's opinion was shared by just about everyone, including McBride, who said during a preseason news conference: "The potential I see in any defense is they can be as good or better than last year or the year before or the year before that or whatever year you think is a good one.

"How good can this defense be? I suppose as good as we've had."

To hear McBride tell it, however, the second scrimmage left serious doubts about whether this season's defense was capable of shouldering the burden of such lofty expectations.

McBride met with the defense immediately after that scrimmage. "He wanted to reaffirm that we have the guys to be a great defense," said senior rush end and co-captain Chad Kelsay.

"He just wanted to get the job done. When you have a couple of big runs against you like we had in those first two scrimmages, it catches up to you and then you start questioning. You might wonder what's going on because coming out of spring ball, we felt we were going to be a good defense.

"But when things didn't go right, like maybe we had planned, you might think a little bit."

Things didn't go right for the defense



Scott Bruhn

ATTENTION
NEBRASKA FOOTBALL FANS

Fiesta Bowl
January 4, 1999 Tempe, AZ - Championship Game
Big 12 Championship
December 5, 1998 - St. Louis MO.

TRAVEL PACKAGES and individual GAME TICKETS are now on sale. Place a $100 per person deposit on the game you would like to attend and receive a FULL REFUND if Nebraska does not play in the game you have selected.

Place your deposit now as both these games are soldout at the box office. Space is very limited.

Tickets are also available for all home & away games.

DIAMOND TRAVEL **1 (602) 870-9197**
Based in Phoenix, Arizona - 11 years in business
(Please call for a free information sheet)
References are available upon request.
www.sportscom.com/diamond

IT TOOK 35 YEARS TO WRITE THIS AD.

Thirty-five years ago, Dr. Stanley C. Pearle had a vision. So he started an optical company with one goal...to help people see better. What grew from that simple dedication is a chain of the finest eyecare stores available throughout America.

In that time , we've made enormous investments to keep up with the rapid change in eyewear technology. From the latest in frames, lenses and coatings to the newest techniques for measuring eyes, our professionals update you on the most current eyecare information and products knowledge available. At Pearle we've made sure you'll find professionals to assist you whose utmost concern is your satisfaction, guaranteed.



All the way from the exams you receive to the lenses you need to the frames you select. In fact, we have put systems in place to ensure that our customers receive superior eyecare every day, and every time.

Come into Pearle and see for yourself if this isn't the best eyecare you've ever received. It took 35 years, but we think you'll agree it was worth it.

PEARLE VISION™
Nobody Cares For Eyes More Than Pearle.

1437 North Webb Road
Grand Island, NE 68803
308•382•9205

1132 O Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
402•476•7583

125 South 66th
Lincoln, NE 68510
402•489•9776

Pearle, Pearle Vision Center, Pearle Vision Express, Pearle EyeTech Express and Eye Buys are registered trademarks of Pearle Vision, Inc. © 1996 Pearle Vision, Inc.

in the opener against Louisiana Tech, of course. Tech quarterback Tim Rattay completed 46 of 68 passes for 590 yards, including an NCAA-record 405 to wide receiver Troy Edwards, who had 21 receptions and scored three touchdowns.

"You never like giving up that number of yards," Kelsay said, understating.

McBride wasn't pleased with the yardage, but it did create the sense of urgency that had been lacking in preseason scrimmages. "A lot of people can say that first game was a bad thing for our defense, and if you look at the statistics, it was," he said. "But it showed that we had to start to perform and focus.

"I don't know if it was just guys not used to playing with each other or what the situation was. But since then, the chemistry on our team has become a lot tighter."
Chad Kelsay

"If you make negatives out of negatives, you're in trouble. But we actually made a positive out of a negative. Sometimes those things will drive your team to get better. And I think from that point, we've gotten to be a better football team. Even though it wasn't pretty, we didn't get down."

Given what happened after the opener, the numbers posted by Louisiana Tech seemed to be an aberration. California and Washington combined to throw 73 passes against the Cornhuskers, completing fewer than half (34) for 400 yards and only one touchdown, with five interceptions.

Obviously, the defense has come a long way since the last preseason scrimmage.

"I don't know if it was just guys not used to playing with each other or what the situation was," said Kelsay. "But since then, the chemistry on our team has become a lot tighter.

"Those first couple of scrimmages, it was hard to tell. But it was during two-a-days, and your legs are dead. You're not exactly sure why things are happening. They were all little things.

"Not everybody is running the

right defense. Calls are getting mixed up a little bit. Not all 11 guys are flying to the ball like they should be. It's just all those little things that add up."

There were some big things that contributed to the early defensive problems, also.

Mike Brown was moved from rover to free safety to replace Clint Finley, who was sidelined by a knee injury until the Washington game. Joe Walker, the No. 1 nickel back and back-up rover, moved up to fill Brown's position. And Khari Reynolds became the starting nickel back.

As a result, the defensive backs "really had to work at things mentally," McBride said. "With people in the secondary doing different things, there was a tremendous mental burden on those guys."

In addition, Rucker, tackle Jason Wiltz and cornerback Erwin Swiney were slowed by injuries. Wiltz missed two games with a severely sprained ankle, and Rucker hardly played at all against California because of a pelvic-related injury that also flared up early last season.

Both Wiltz and Rucker returned for the Washington game.

Even though he understood the factors that contributed to what he regarded a poor effort in that final scrimmage, McBride wasn't willing to tolerate it. He has rarely been so candid for print.

"Sometimes you say the right things to them, and sometimes you say the wrong things to them. At that time, I think they needed a push," he said. "I didn't think they were playing very well."

He was exaggerating some to motivate the players. But he was also concerned.

So the new-found mellowness had to be set aside that afternoon.

"Probably Coach (Tom) Osborne didn't call me his loose cannon for nothing," McBride said. "He used to call me his loose cannon, so I guess that was kind of the loose cannon performing there."

All indications are that McBride's loose cannon performance worked well. ■

PLAYER PROFILE

Chad Kelsay

Grant Wistrom and Jason Peter were Nebraska's big-play defenders last season. That torch has been passed without missing a beat to Kelsay and Mike Rucker

Rush end has remained a high-profile position on Nebraska's defense this season, thanks to the efforts of Chad Kelsay and Mike Rucker and their backups, Kyle Vanden Bosch and Aaron Wills.

Rucker got off to a slow start because of the pelvic-related injury that bothered him early last season, but he was outstanding in the Cornhuskers' 24-17 victory against Oklahoma State, making 10 tackles, including the stop of tailback Nathan Simmons on the final play of the game.



Kelsay has played at an exceptionally high level from the opening game on. He was Nebraska's nominee for Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week honors in each of the first three weeks, and he won the award for his performance in the Cornhuskers' 55-7 victory against Washington.

The senior from Auburn, Neb., made three tackles, including one for loss, and he had an interception, a pass breakup and three quarterback hurries, as well as a sack and a forced fumble.

In characteristic fashion, Kelsay downplayed his accomplishments, which would have been even more impressive if not for liberal substitutions in the second half of the lopsided victory.

The interception, for example, "was all luck," Kelsay said. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time. That interception should have gone to Carlos (Polk) and Brian (Shaw)." Polk and Shaw are the linebackers who pressured Washington quarterback Brock Huard into the mistake.

For Kelsay, the team's the thing, and as a co-captain, he's had to accept a leadership role.

"Coming in here, you see all the guys in the past, especially Grant (Wistrom) and Jason (Peter) last year. They just dominated on the defensive side," he said. "I wanted to come in this year and not just be another guy who was kind of stepping into a role. I wanted to follow in the same kind of footsteps that the captains in the past have set, be a dominant force, be something the other guys can look up to.

"I wanted to be the kind of guy who can make a lot of plays, make a lot of things happen."

In addition to leading by example, he's had to become more vocal.

However, "I don't want to be fake," said Kelsay. "I've never been a real vocal leader. I've always tried to lead by example. I've stepped into a more vocal role this year, but at the same time, Jay (Foreman) is a vocal guy, too. We've got a lot of guys on defense who lead in their own way.

"I just try to lead in the best way I can. If that's getting more vocal sometimes, I'll do that. But if it's just going out there and going as hard as I can on every play, that's what I'll do."

Kelsay has found himself "kind of stepping into a role where you feel more comfortable, letting guys know, and then kind of coming into a position where you're stepping up as a leader. Other guys look up to you and kind of respect that. So if that's what it takes, that's what I'll do.

"Right now, we have 11 guys out there flying around the ball and making things happen."

Kelsay made plenty of things happen against Washington.

Being selected as the Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week is "a nice honor," he said.

"But we're out here as a team. I was pleased to hear I got it. But everybody on our defense is playing as hard as they can. Everybody is trying to make things happen. As long as we keep playing well as a team, that's the most important part to me. We're just coming out every week and trying to improve." ■

A Leg Up

The soccer squad's leading scorer, forward Kim Engesser, has rarely met a kick or challenge she didn't like

By Todd HENRICHS

In 1996, Kim Engesser wasn't scoring goals and wasn't happy at the University of Portland. What a difference two years and two time zones can make.

Now in her second year at Nebraska, Engesser is bidding to lead all NCAA Division I women's soccer players in goals for the second straight season. The 5-foot-5 senior forward from Huntington Beach, Calif., has hung up 13 goals in the Huskers' first eight games and admits that even she is surprised by the turn of fortunes in her career.

"I really surprised myself last year," said Engesser, who had three assists to go along with her 26 goals in 1997. "Coming off my year at Portland, I didn't really know what to expect coming in as a new player. I didn't really know what my role would be.

"I just wanted to come in and start after not starting my sophomore year. I wanted to make as big of a contribution as I could to try and get us to the Final Four."

Nebraska fell short of the Final Four a year ago, losing at Notre Dame in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Injuries have hampered the Huskers this season, but Nebraska remains focused on advancing deep into the postseason.

Near the midpoint of the regular season, Nebraska, ranked 19th in the NSCAA/Umbro poll, stood 6-2 but owned wins over No. 14 Clemson and No. 15 Stanford. In addition to some important Big 12 Conference matches, the Huskers were also looking forward to a mid-season clash with No. 6 Portland, an opponent certain to have Engesser's attention.

Although Nebraska's fifth-year coach John Walker says there are no hard feelings left over concerning Engesser's transfer, it's clear that isn't completely the case with his star player. A *Parade* All-American in high school, Engesser chose Portland and immediately made an impact as the Pilots reached the NCAA championship game in 1995.

But the year after scoring 23 points (nine goals) in 21 starts and earning a spot on the U.S. Under-20 National Team, Engesser's role suddenly changed. She was moved to defender and started just two games in 1996, one against Nebraska in the NCAA Tournament.

"I didn't really enjoy it," said Engesser, who asked to be released from her scholarship following the season. A few months later, she was on her way to Nebraska.



Engesser's 26 goals in 1997 represented 32 percent of Nebraska's offensive production.

Engesser welcomed the support of Walker and close friends Jenny Benson and Sandy Smith, teammates on her powerhouse North Huntington Beach club team who chose Nebraska out of high school. It's likely they were the only players not surprised when Engesser immediately began showing her abilities as a dominant scorer.

Engesser scored all of Nebraska's goals in a 4-1 win over Baylor at the Big 12 Tournament. Her four goals set a Husker single-game record. Her third hat trick of the season followed days later in NU's 5-1 win over Michigan in the NCAA Tournament.

Her 26 goals in 1997 represented 32 percent of Nebraska's offensive production. This year, that mark was at 39 percent after Engesser scored in each of Nebraska's first eight games. Walker marvels at her consistency, while Husker fans are awed by Engesser's flair.

About the only person who won't remember Engesser's second goal against Southwest Missouri State earlier this year is Beth Schneider. Engesser's improbable header from outside 15 yards completely fooled the Bears' keeper. The goal was set up by Sharolta Nonen's brilliantly placed corner kick.

"You don't see too many people try that," Walker said after the Huskers wrapped up a 7-0 win. "It was a brave challenge because there were a couple people coming at her.

"But that's the mentality of a goal scorer. That's sometimes hard to teach."

For that reason alone, Walker is thrilled to have Engesser around this season. With Benson's loss to a season-ending knee surgery, the Huskers have needed a forward who can make plays. Walker is also breaking in a talented freshman class that includes Meghan Anderson of Omaha and Colorado native Kelly Rheem, two players with big futures as goal scorers at Nebraska.

"They can all help each other out by playing well," Walker said. "The more dangerous players we have, the more difficult it is for teams to prepare against you. That down the road is definitely going to be helpful for us."

For now, Engesser does attract a little extra attention. ■

Netters Unveil New "6-2" Offense To Keep Opponents Off Balance

SET FOR THE FUTURE

When back problems aren't bothering **Jill McWilliams**, the Nebraska volleyball team has another weapon to show opponents this season.

Coach **Terry Pettit** has tried to work McWilliams into the lineup more this fall. A 6-2 offense, in which setters are positioned in both the front and back rows and all six players are used as attackers, is a different look for NU opponents. Having McWilliams on the court frees up All-American setter **Fiona Nepo** to show off her skills as a hitter.

"It's more a situational thing," Pettit said. "You get to a certain point in a match and a team has adjusted to the rhythm of what you're doing. So you run (the 6-2) for a couple sideouts and it can maybe make a difference."

Working McWilliams into the lineup could also make a difference next season when the sophomore from Des Moines, Iowa, hopes to become the NU starter. Back problems, which first surfaced last spring, however, are hampering her progress.

"It doesn't hurt her to jump. It doesn't hurt her to set the ball, but it does hurt her to run," Pettit said, "and when you play the setter position, you have to run.

"Setters need a lot of contacts to maintain their consistency. (The injury) doesn't allow her to get any extra setter training."



Jill McWILLIAMS

Typically, McWilliams leaves practice early once a week to see a chiropractor. Other days she must sit out of drills all together because of the lower back pain resulting from what she says is a slight bulge in one of her disks.

The ailment has been as unpredictable as it is frustrating for McWilliams. Nebraska, ranked third in the *USA Today*/AVCA coaches' poll, is off to an 11-0 start.

SOFTBALL MEETS WASHINGTON

Top 10 teams from Nebraska and Washington battled on more than the football field last month.

The Huskers and Huskies also collided on the softball field as part of the Husker Fall Classic. Washington, which returned 11 players from its 1998 squad swept three meetings from the Huskers.

Nebraska has eight newcomers whose job is to help compensate for the loss of four seniors. The Huskers, who finished 48-12 last year, graduated three of their four all-time leading home-run hitters.

Nebraska carried a 10-6 mark into its fall season finale at Missouri-Kansas City. ■

Your Needs

Tuition
New car
Business financing
Ready cash access
Convenient service

Our Tools

Education loans
Installment loans
Business banking
Checking, savings
Easy banking access

At U.S. Bank we have dozens of products and services to meet the needs of individuals and businesses. With over 1,000 branches, nearly 3,000 UBank® ATMs and UBank® 24-Hour Phone Banking, we are conveniently available to serve you whether at home or on the road. So the next time you need to make any kind of financial decision, stop by or give us a call. We offer a variety of financial solutions based on the most important factor of all -- you!

usbank.

Member FDIC

Washington Win Helps NU

RUMORS

With Nebraska's offense running in high gear against Washington on national television, several top national recruits took notice. If you are the starting tailback at Nebraska, you are automatically a Heisman Trophy candidate, as well as All-American and All-Conference, too.

Nebraska is getting attention from running backs all over the country. One of the very best is preseason All-American **Julius Jones** (6-feet, 190 pounds, 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash) of Big Stone Gap (Powell Valley), Va. The Jones family has been through the recruiting wars before, as Julius' older brother, Thomas, was the state's top prospect three years ago.

Early, the Huskers have the lead on Jones, who rushed for 1,800 yards and 32 TDs as a junior. Already this season, Jones has 583 yards on just 43 carries. Along with Nebraska, Michigan, Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia are all very close.

"At the moment UCLA and Nebraska are my top two schools," said Jones. "Both are great programs and great schools. Both are really doing well right now in college football. I have always like UCLA, and the fact it's in Los Angeles is cool, but Nebraska has the best college football setting in the country. I really am not close to making a decision but know that I can't go wrong no matter which way I go."

Considered by many the top player in the country, **Nick Maddox** of Kannapolis (Brown), N.C., also has more interest in Nebraska after the Washington victory.

"Nebraska was blocking so well up front, and their running backs were basically running untouched," said Maddox. "Nebraska has a great offensive system, and if you can play tailback for them, you've got to be a great player."

Maddox says Nebraska is very much in the recruiting race with Florida State, North Carolina, Penn State, Florida, Texas and Duke.

William Green of Absecon (Holy Spirit), N.J., is another top back scheduled to visit Nebraska. A weightlifting champ and sprinter, Green could play either fullback or tailback. Penn State is the main competition for the Huskers early, with West Virginia, Maryland, Notre Dame, North Carolina and Florida State in the mix.

Another Davis will be running the ball at Iowa State. Jason Davis of Miami (Southridge), will follow in the footsteps of big brothers Troy and Darren. Jason rushed for 1,790 yards and 20 TDs as a junior. ■

Blackshirts Come In Large Sizes Only

Nebraska's success in recruiting defensive linemen is unmatched in recent years

By James HALE

There are no secrets in the college football recruiting world. Any college football coach in the country will tell you the same thing. The toughest position to recruit in college football is defensive line. This has been the case for the last 50 years and will continue to be for the next 50.

Defensive tackles come in all shapes and sizes, too. The Peter brothers, Jason and Christian, are recent examples of the type of athletes who have dominated inside for the Huskers. Nebraska looks for big, strong and physical athletes who can act as anchors in the middle for the entire defense. These athletes must be able to hold their own inside so that the Husker skill position athletes on defense can swarm around them.

At defensive end, the Huskers look for a lighter, quicker athlete, especially at their famous rush end position where Grant Wistrom was so dominant in Husker recent history.

The Huskers don't always recruit prototypical players at these positions. They look for strength, speed and quickness. They are liable to take defensive ends or smaller players out of high school to play inside, build them up in the weightroom and play them at defensive tackle. Same goes at defensive end, where Nebraska might take a bigger outside linebacker, build him up and throw him in at defensive end.

Trying to project who just might fit in the Huskers defensive line isn't always easy, because Nebraska may not recruit the traditional defensive lineman. Speed is the name of the game for Nebraska's defense and is the primary asset its coaches are always looking for.

Already the Huskers have two commitments for their defensive line in **Ryon Bingham** (6-foot-4, 265 pounds, with 5.0 speed in the 40-dash) of Sandy (Alta), Utah and **Phil Peetz** (6-2, 251, 5.0) of Elkhorn, Neb. Both are defensive tackle types for the Cornhuskers who have excellent athletic ability and the type of body frames that Nebraska can build on.

The very best defensive end prospect in the country is **Cole Pittman** (6-4, 250, 4.7) of Shreveport (Evangel), La. A prototype defensive end, Pittman is a refreshing "yes, sir, no, sir" athlete with incredible athletic ability and a ferocious attitude on the field.

Pittman was a preseason All-



There is little doubt that Ryon Bingham of Sandy, Utah, has the physical tools necessary to become an impact player on the defensive line at Nebraska.

American on the team ranked fourth in the country by *USA Today*. Evangel's winning streak is now at 34 straight and counting with a perfect 4-0 mark this season. A fabulous pass rusher, Pittman sacked the quarterback 12 times as a junior and already has six sacks this season.

Pittman finished with 115 tackles a year ago and already has 20 solo stops this season with 10 assists, four fumble recoveries, two forced fumbles and has knocked down two passes.

A first-team all-state performer since his sophomore year, Pittman is so aggressive that he beats triple teams at the line of scrimmage. He loves rushing off the edge and knows exactly what he wants out of a college football program.

"It's not just one physical thing about a program that I am looking for," said Pittman. "It's more or less a feel about the program. It's hard to explain. I will just have to feel right about the program when I visit. I want to look at depth charts, talk to coaches, players and just make sure the college is right for me.

"It will be a very hard decision, but I will know when the right college comes along for me."

Pittman has already sit a visit date with LSU (Oct. 17) and has told Nebraska and Notre Dame that he will visit. Ohio State, Florida, Kansas State are liable to get his final three visits, but Texas, Tennessee, Texas A&M and Georgia could sneak in and grab one instead. The Cornhuskers have always been one of Pittman's favorite teams, and that is still the case.

"I visited Nebraska when I was a freshman with a friend of mine [Bubba Alexander who signed with LSU] and just loved the place," said Pittman. "I liked everything about the Nebraska football program. Game day was incredible. The Nebraska defense was the most aggressive defense I have ever seen. I loved their rush end position and how everybody was so dominant getting to the football. I met Grant Wistrom, and he was a great guy. The stadium was a great setting with tremendous football fans who really loved their football. Nebraska is a great program, maybe the very best in the country, and I am proud they are interested in signing me."

It's tough for top athletes in Louisiana to leave LSU. Louisiana is a very political state, and the locals in Bayou Country don't want their star prep athletes to leave the area. However, Pittman says he's not going to be influenced.

"I am not going to worry about the pressure to stay in-state," said Pittman. "I am not going to worry about the pressure of the recruiting period. This is my decision, and only I can make it. I will decide what is best for me and nobody but me can decide that. If LSU is the best place for me, then I will stay in-state. If it's not, then I have no problems going out of state."

Chad Pugh (6-4, 258, 4.9) of Fort Worth (Boswell), is another preseason All-American strongly considering the Huskers. A tough defensive end who can run,

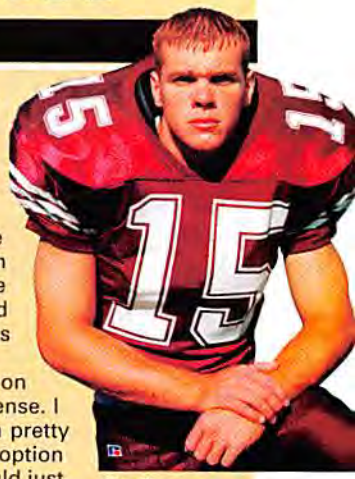
Early Birds

These players have given Nebraska verbal non-binding commitments.

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	40	High School
Josh Davis	TB	6-0	194	4.4	Loveland, Colo.
Ryon Bingham	DT	6-4	260	5.0	Sandy (Alta), Utah
Rob Blomeier	QB/DB	6-0	194	4.5	Lancaster (Manheim Township), Pa.
Judd Davies	FB	6-1	238	4.7	Omaha (Millard North), Neb.
Taylor Gehman	FS	6-0	190	4.5	Omaha (Northwest), Neb.
Chris Loos	OL	6-3	275	5.4	Lincoln (Southeast), Neb.
Phil Peetz	DT	6-2	250	4.9	Elkhorn, Neb.
Trevor Johnson	TE	6-4	220	4.7	Lincoln (Northeast), Neb.
Shaun Coleman	LB/QB	6-4	212	4.5	Aurora (Regis Jesuit), Colo.

REP REPORT

Keeping Up With COLBY FREEMAN



Colby FREEMAN

WE PLAYED GRANBURY this past weekend and we won, 42-16. The score was very deceiving. They were a good team, but we were on top of our game and were just better on that particular Friday. We played extremely well, and our defense stepped it up. Our offense had 500 yards total offense, so we just had a great overall game.

I think our offense dictated the tempo of the game. We went down on our first drive of the game and scored in five plays. I think that set the stage for the rest of the game. Our defense started off kind of slow, but they picked it up towards the end, and it was just a great game for us overall.

I don't play on defense, but at times I would love to be on the field playing linebacker. I really don't miss playing defense. I try my hardest to bust my tail on offense and usually I am pretty tired. It would be tough on me to go both ways. With our option game and with me running the ball as much as I am, it would just be too much I think.

Ever since our loss we have come around. We struggled the next week after the loss, but after that we had our week off and we started going varsity-on-varsity at practice and it's paid off for us. The main thing that hurt us early was reading the newspapers and stuff. We had a bunch of young guys coming up, and they weren't use to handling that kind of publicity or use to playing on Friday night. We went out our first week and posted a tremendous win and then play the 8th or 9th ranked team in the state and we were number three. I just think that we just let it slip by us and we got a little big headed after that first game. Now, we are back on track and really jelling as a team. Everything is going well for us.

I hear about some of the other top recruits, like Shaud Williams. I don't play him, but I know Shaud very well, and we keep in touch. I really don't keep up with many more. I really don't know if I have played anybody that is being highly recruited. I do know that the Stephenville quarterback has a great arm, but I don't keep up with his recruiting. If I get caught up in that stuff, I will get too caught up in it and it won't be good for me.

I went to the Texas A&M game again this weekend. They played North Texas, who has a running back from Brownwood playing for them named Hut Allred. Texas A&M is always first class and real hospitable when I visit. I really don't enjoy the recruiting end of it as much as I enjoy just going to the game and watching college football. I think college football is the most exciting thing on television or anything else.

My mom talked to Turner Gill. He thought I was going to be here when he called, but I wasn't so she called him back. I still haven't had a chance to talk to Coach Gill personally. I plan on calling Greg Davis, the quarterback coach at Texas this weekend. I still haven't made a decision on what I am going to do. I am not going to rush things, and I am just going to sit back and let things happen. ■ — ***As told to James Hale***

*Throughout the 1998 football season, **Huskers Illustrated** will chronicle the recruiting process of Brownwood quarterback Colby Freeman, one of the top prospects in Texas.*

Huskers
Commemorative Stamps*
1998 Husker Commemorative Stamp Collection!

1970 • 1971 • 1994 • 1995
NEW!
NATIONAL CHAMPION
1997
Design No.13

Limited quantities of Designs No.1 thru No.11 are available!

*THESE ARE NOT POSTAGE STAMPS!

	6" x 4" FRAMEABLE STAMP	QTY	55-STAMP SHEET	QTY	SUB TOTAL	SHIPPING AND HANDLING	CO. RESIDENCE ADD 3.8% TAX**	GRAND TOTAL
Design No.13	$8.50 ea.		$6.50 ea.		$	$3.00	$	$

**Colorado residents: The sales tax is figured on the Sub Total added to the Shipping and Handling charge!

Make checks payable to: GRAPHIC SELLING, INC.
FOR INFORMATION CALL OR WRITE:
GRAPHIC SELLING, INC. / Ken Allen
P.O. Box 6134 • Littleton, Colorado 80121 • (303) 771-4237



• Commercial • Auto
• Residential

HUSKER

HUSKER GLASS, INC.

8415 Blondo
Omaha, NE
397-3100

Business Hours
M-F 8-5
Sat. 9-1
www.huskerglass.com

6090 North 56th St.
Lincoln, NE
434-5310

Pugh posted 48 solo stops, 23 assisted, with six sacks, 11 tackles for losses and four forced fumbles. Pugh has 29 solo stops already in 1998, with nine forced fumbles and four sacks.

Pugh is leaning towards Nebraska or Baylor early, with Michigan, Texas, TCU and OU in the hunt.

"I really like the Nebraska coaching staff and the fact they all have been there for a long time," said Pugh. "It's not often in college football that you find coaches who have been with one program for a long time. At Nebraska it seemed liked all the coaches have been there forever, and none of them want to leave. I don't want to go to a school where the coaching staffs are always changing. Nebraska is a great program that plays for the national title every year, and I know who my coaches are going to be."

Shannon Mitchell (6-4, 252, 4.7) of Navasota, Texas, is rated right behind Pugh in the Lone Star state. Mitchell is a super athlete who averages 14 points per game in hoops. Texas A&M and Miami are the early leaders with Nebraska, Texas, Texas Tech and BYU all in the chase.

Nebraska also continues to work preseason All-American **Cedric Hilliard** (6-4, 295, 4.9) of Arlington (Lamar), Texas. Hillard hadn't committed to a visit with Nebraska at press time, but was looking at Nebraska, along with Texas, Notre Dame, Colorado, Tennessee,



Phil Peetz, who has already committed to the Cornhuskers, is an athletic player from the state of Nebraska who will fit in well on the defensive line.

Oklahoma State and Texas A&M.

Nebraska is also very much in the running for the top three defensive line prospects in Missouri. **John Garrison** (6-6, 250, 4.8) of Blue Springs and **Spencer Owen** (6-5, 228, 4.8) of Carrollton were both preseason All-Americans. Garrison doubles as a tight end and likes Nebraska, Kansas State, UCLA, Tennessee, Missouri and Notre Dame.

"I would love to play defensive end at Nebraska," said Garrison. "The Nebraska rush end position is one of the elite positions in college football, and that is the type of position that I am shooting for."

Owen is a great athlete who will grow into the defensive end spot. He was offered by Nebraska back in the summer, and the Huskers lead Missouri, Kansas, Colorado and Kansas State.

Webb City, Mo., has already sent the Wistrom brothers to Nebraska, and Cornhusker coaches are headed back to recruit **Andrew Shull** (6-5, 225, 4.79).

Through four games, Shull has posted 40 tackles, caused four hurries and managed five tackles for losses. Nebraska is in a dogfight with Kansas State, Missouri, Tennessee, OU, Oklahoma State, Purdue and Iowa State for his services.

"I love the Nebraska tradition," said Shull. "It's also a good feeling that I know some people that are already on the football team from my hometown. What's not to like about Nebraska? They win, you can get a great education and their coaching staff is outstanding."

Cory Kipp (6-5, 250, 4.9) of Riverside (North), Calif., is a super talent with all the tools anybody would want in a defensive lineman.

Kipp made 135 stops a year ago with 22 sacks. Nebraska got a first-hand look at Kipp at their camp and offered him back in the summer. Nebraska has a slight lead over UCLA, USC, Arizona, Iowa and Washington.

Ryan Haywood (6-5, 280, 4.8) of Denver (Jefferson), Colo., is being recruited on both sides of the ball. He's dominant at offensive tackle was well as defensive tackle. Credited with 11 quarterback sacks a year ago, Haywood already has six more this season. Haywood camped at Nebraska and has the Cornhuskers in a hunt with Florida State, Texas, Colorado, North Carolina, Tennessee, OU and Oklahoma State. ■

CAMPUS LIFE

As Seen Through The Eyes Of Tracey Wistrom



Tracey WISTROM

YOU SEE THE WIRE-RIMMED glasses, the lean frame, the tan Calvin Klein baseball cap covering wavy blond hair that flops atop a boyish face. You quickly notice the gentle, mild-mannered nature.

You could easily be looking at a small-college basketball forward when, in fact, it's Tracey Wistrom, a 6-foot-5, 219-pound redshirt freshman tight end for Nebraska.

"He will surprise opponents," Cornhuskers receivers coach Ron Brown said. "He looks very lean, but he'll strike you like a whip. He's got some physics going for him.

"Tracey gets the most out of every pound he has. As he adds weight, he will become a devastating player."

Devastating describes his brother, Grant, the former Nebraska rush end who's now a rookie for the St. Louis Rams.

Tracey, the youngest of three Wistrom boys (27-year-old Chance was a standout defensive end at Central Missouri State) has a ways to go to reach the level of his middle brother. Tracey has nothing but time and he has already advanced quickly.

Sept. 26 against Washington, Wistrom played about 20 snaps and recorded 11 knockdown blocks, a ratio that pleases Brown. Wistrom, though, is known more for his ability as a receiver than a blocker. His football intellect completes the package.

"The fact he's been able to grasp the offense quickly has given him a chance to hit the field early," Brown said.

Wistrom improved his status when he hauled in a perfectly thrown 63-yard touchdown pass from Monte Christo to complete the scoring in Nebraska's 38-7 win over Alabama-Birmingham on Sept. 5.

Coming out of the bullpen beats the scout-team duty Wistrom endured last season. He had the pleasure of daily poundings by the likes of his brother and fellow rush ends Chad Kelsay and Mike Rucker. For Tracey, it was either improve or spend entire practices on his back. And no defenders would never cut him slack because of his status as Grant's kid brother.

"I think they maybe went at me a little harder because of that," he said. "They figured they couldn't take it out on Grant, so I was next in line."

Grant seemed like a likable guy, not the type to elicit hostility from teammates.

"You'd think so," Tracey said smiling. "But sometimes it's a little different on the football field."

Grant could be vocal in the way he pushed teammates when they thought they had nothing left in the tank. Brown said Tracey's temperament, by contrast, is quiet and reserved.

"But when the pads start popping, he's a fiery competitor like Grant," the coach said. ■ — *As told to Steve Sipple*

THE ULTIMATE HUSKER HOTLINE

FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL 1-800-397-3715

Line 1 Daily Practice Reports
Check out what happened in practice with our updates. This is the only way to get the inside scoop daily, unless you're at the practice.

Line 2 Game Recaps
If you want more than the score and can't wait for the magazine, call and get early results. Find out who scored the big plays and what decided the game. On-line within two hours of the end of the game.

Line 3 Football Recruiting
Each week we explore who the Huskers are chasing and break down the needs by position.

A SERVICE OF HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

YOUR BEST SOURCE FOR RECRUITING UPDATES

Line 3 Updated Every Friday

HuskersIllustrated 1-900-860-4733

Each prompt is updated by 10 p.m. (CST) unless noted

$2.00 for the first minute • $1.00 for each minute thereafter
Callers under 18 must have parents' permission

Nebraska Down, But Definitely Not Out

Despite disappointing loss to Texas A&M, Cornhusker players not ready to give up on the season



Mike BABCOCK

CHALK ONE UP TO EXPERIENCE.

And forget about making another run at a national championship, for the time being at least.

"We can't be worried about national titles and all that," Nebraska tight end Sheldon Jackson said after Texas A&M's 28-21 upset of the Cornhuskers. "The next thing we've got to think about is Kansas."

The Jayhawks come to Lincoln on Saturday for a 6 p.m. game. Home at last. Thank goodness.

Nebraska had a different look the last time it played at Memorial Stadium. Cornhuskers rushed for 434 yards in a 55-7 victory against Washington, ranked No. 9 at the time. Nebraska also had the look of a national championship contender.

The Cornhuskers still had that look when they went to College Station, Texas. They were ranked second in both major polls and they had shown they could overcome adversity in defeating Oklahoma State, 24-17.

But the adversity of the week before resurfaced at Kyle Field, and this time, the Cornhuskers didn't have the means to overcome it.

Not quite, they didn't. A fourth-quarter rally fell short.

The rally was accomplished with the passing of Bobby Newcombe, a positive sign for the future. The lack of a running game was both perplexing and worrisome.



Bobby Newcombe, who threw for a career-best 204 yards, was under constant pressure by the Aggies' Wrecking Crew defense.

"I don't know what they were doing, why we couldn't run the ball," Cornhusker split end Matt Davison said.

Nebraska rushed 44 times for a net of 141 yards, better than it had done against Oklahoma State, but still uncharacteristic of the Cornhuskers.

"We struggled moving the ball on the ground with a lot of consistency early," said coach Frank Solich. "We gave it a good shot. We gave the option game, really, a very good test in the first half."

Most of Nebraska's running success came in the fourth quarter, 83 yards on 11 carries.

The Aggies didn't surprise Nebraska with their defensive scheme the way Oklahoma State did. "Their scheme was very similar to what they've been doing," Solich said. "It wasn't anything that surprised us."

"Certainly we ran the option very well a couple of games earlier in the year," said Solich. "People are trying to defend the option more, and we'd like to think we've got a variety there (on offense) to where we can go to a number of things. The option is being taken away, and really we got to some of those things in the second half."

Newcombe was involved in some of the things to which Solich referred, running as well as passing. But he constantly found himself under heavy pressure. The Aggies sacked him four times for 26 yards in losses.

"I thought this was a hard game for Bobby early. Things did not go real well for us offensively," Solich said. "We were not able to establish anything with any kind of consistency, and it was a frustrating game for a quarterback. And yet as the game went on, he hung in there. He got better and better and was able to produce big plays, and many plays, with the passing game."

Newcombe threw a career-high 27 passes, completing 15 for a career-high 204 yards. "For a young quarterback, a guy who's coming off an injury, I thought he played well, played with a lot of heart," said Solich.

Newcombe was limited during practice throughout the week because of a knee injury he suffered in the opener against Louisiana Tech. There was some question as to whether he would be able to start, but he started and played the entire game.

Newcombe was as befuddled as everyone else by Nebraska's inability to run the ball consistently.

"We're still Nebraska," he said. "We've got to balance it out in the running game. That's what opens up the pass."

Time and again, the Cornhuskers came up short in third down situations. They converted only five of 16 third downs and were 0-of-3 on fourth down.

A national title contender is more effective than that. And for now at least, Nebraska doesn't fit that description.

"Whenever you set a goal as being a national championship team, in this day and age, if you lose a game, that can seem to dwindle away a little bit," said rush end Chad Kelsay. "It's hard to say what's going to happen."

In 1996, the Cornhuskers lost their second game at Arizona State yet came back to put themselves in position to play for a national title before an upset loss to Texas in the Big 12 Championship game ended their hopes.

"We didn't just give up," Kelsay said, recalling that season. And the Cornhuskers aren't going to give up now.

But first things first. "We'll come out and play hard next week," Jackson said. "That's all." ■

Cheer Louder!

Show your good taste, and your team spirit, with a Limited Edition Husker Kid! These handmade dolls are crafted in the U.S., are 24" tall, feature real clothes, working watches and accessories. We can personalize any doll, even your favorite players and one of a kind collectibles are available.

Meet All 11 Husker Kids In Our FREE Catalog!

Call 1-888-93DOLLS

(1-888-933-6557) Or Check Our Website At www.nebraskadolls.com



Samantha

Lori

Cassie
(with authentic National Champions cheer uniform)

All Cheerleaders
Limited Edition of 1000
$165.00 each
Chair Sold Separately for $20.00





1998 Official Coach's Polo

STUFF.

THE REAL STUFF.SM

Real champions put on attitude before they hit the field. And Huskers Authentic has the real stuff that helps create that Husker championship attitude on the gridiron, volleyball and basketball courts, or soccer field: Coach's polos (above), jerseys, sideline jackets, sweats, and much more. It's all absolutely identical to what the Huskers wear. So suit up with Huskers Authentic and put on attitude – the real stuff of champions.

Just across the street, west of Memorial Stadium.
Or call toll-free **1-800-965-8674** for a FREE official Huskers Authentic catalog.

Huskers AUTHENTIC TM

©1998 Huskers Authentic • 625 Stadium Drive • Store Hours: Monday-Friday 10-7, Saturday 10-5, Home Game Sundays Noon-4 • Parking Available on Non-Game Saturdays